GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

by

JONATHAN SWIFT

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P. Mintaon
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SUNDA
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Straits of Sunday.
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Straits of Annian
C. Blanco
St. Sebastian
C. Mendocino
Pto. Sr. Francis Drake
NEW ALBION
Mount St. Martin.
P. Monterey.
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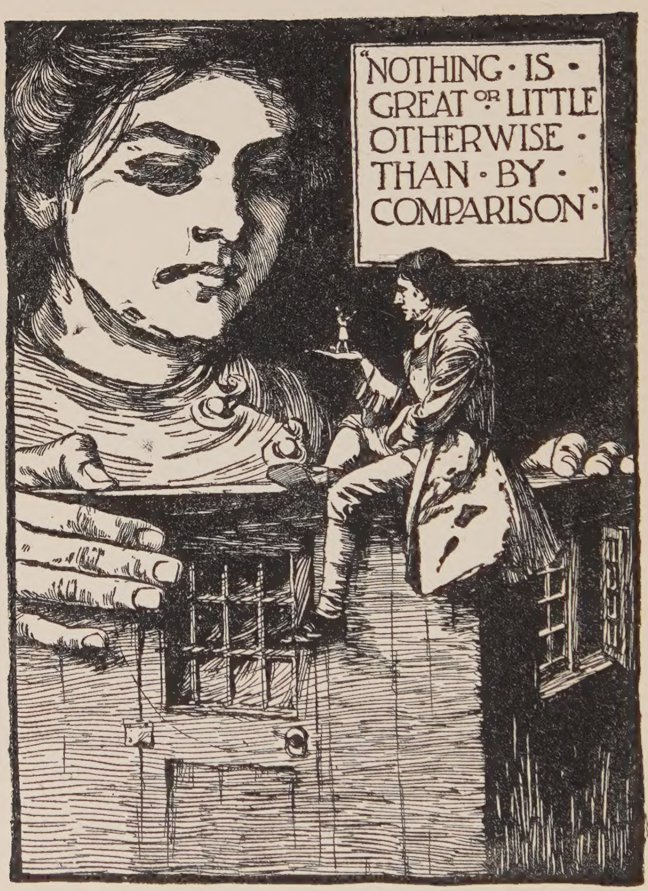
GULLIVER'S TRAVELS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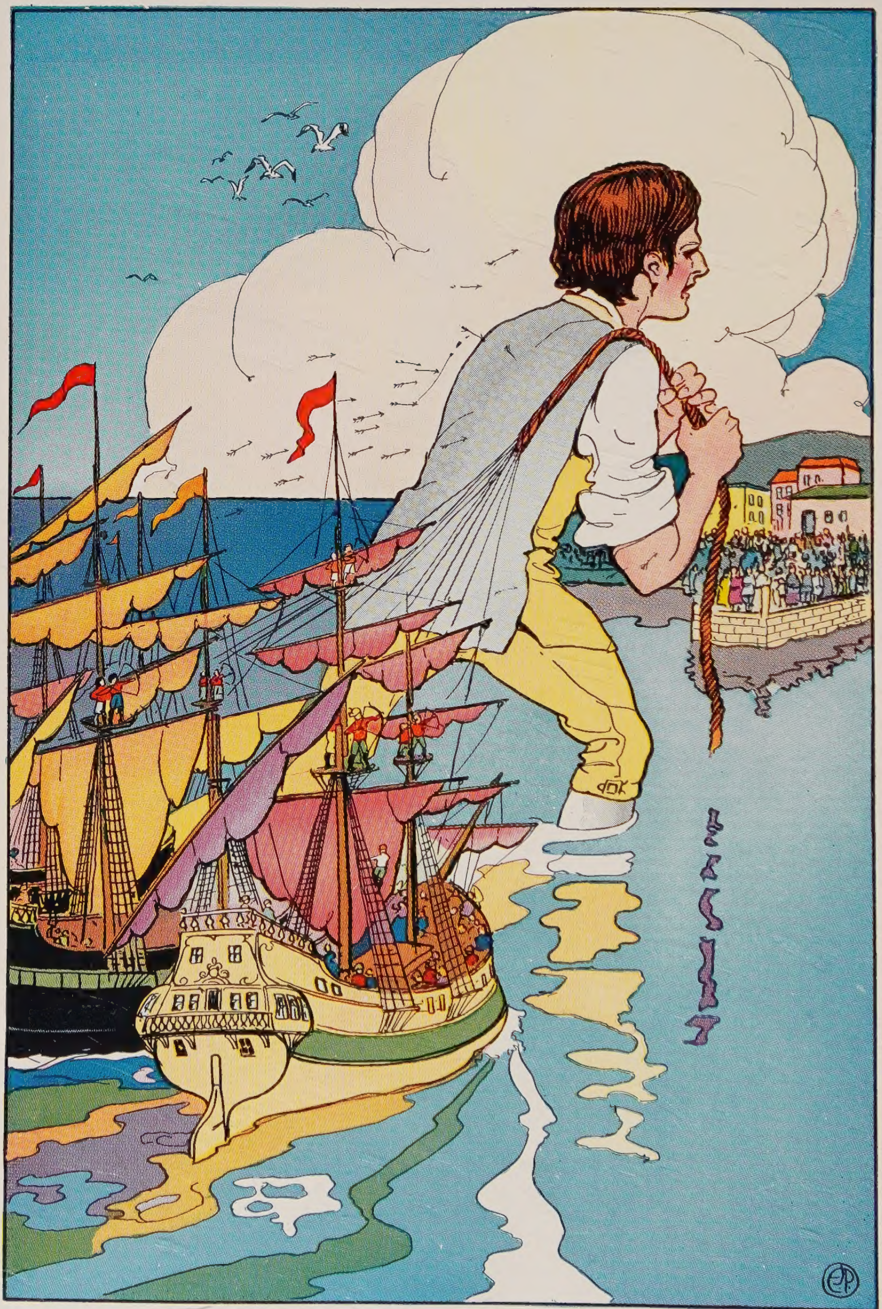

With the greatest ease I drew fifty of the enemy's largest men-of-war after me

GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

INTO SEVERAL REMOTE NATIONS OF THE WORLD

INTRODUCTION BY
M. D. HOLMES

WITH ORIGINAL ILLUSTRATIONS BY
EDWIN J. PRITTIE

THE JOHN C. WINSTON COMPANY
CHICAGO PHILADELPHIA TORONTO

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PRINTED IN THE. U S. A.
AT THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS
THE JOHN C. WINSTON COMPANY
PHILADELPHIA

Gulliver's Travels

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INTRODUCTION

THIS book has been read by many thousands of people, young and old, for over two hundred years. The man who wrote it, however, Jonathan Swift, did not know that many of his readers would be young folk. It was written only for grown-ups; but the stories of adventure which it tells are even more interesting to boys and girls than they are to the older people.

At the time when *Gulliver's Travels* was published in 1726, the people of England, who read it eagerly, could find in the stories hidden meanings that we today do not see. To us the stories are simply stories; the Lilliputians are tiny, elflike creatures and the Brobdingnagians are giants like those we read of in fairy tales. Kipling's *Jungle Book* has made us familiar with talking animals like the talking horses of Swift. But in England two hundred years ago, each of these groups of fairy-story people represented a kind of actual people. In describing the story folk, Swift was criticizing or making fun of the actual folk, so that the book was known as a "satire."

Jonathan Swift, the author, was an English clergyman with a parish in Ireland, the country in which he had been born and reared. He is usually called Dean Swift, because he was dean, or head minister, in the Anglican Cathedral of St. Patrick in Dublin. Unlike ministers today, he had mixed a great deal in politics. He had had a very disappointing, unhappy life and he felt that no one appreciated him. For these reasons he felt much bitterness toward the world and in some places in this book, especially toward the end, you will notice that he expresses this feeling of hatred and dislike for mankind.

Gulliver's Travels was first published without the author's name. People thought that it was really by a man named Gulliver, and it sounded so like a story of actual fact that many readers believed that it was true. In those days novels were unknown; previous to this time the only work of fiction that told a story of real life was *Robinson Crusoe.* It was not surprising that the public were at first deceived by these "Travels." Of course nowadays such a thing would be impossible, for every part of the world has been explored. But in 1726 there were many parts of the earth's surface utterly unknown and there might easily have been in these unknown regions such lands as Swift described.

Twentieth-century readers know that these stories are only make-believe; but they still like to read of the tiny pygmies and the huge giants and the floating island and the talking horses—the same creatures that their fathers and mothers and their great-grandfathers and grandmothers read of when they were your age. In this volume many long words have been shortened and some parts of the book that only grown folks could understand and like have been omitted. Here and there a footnote will explain one of the hidden meanings that made the book amusing to English people in Swift's own time. But there is no need to think much about these satirical meanings nor to remember too often the sad, lonely, deaf old man who sometimes expresses here his disappointment with the world of men around him. We can forget Swift in our acquaintance with Gulliver, a very sturdy, honest, likable person, at whose strange adventures in remote places we sometimes laugh and sometimes wonder.

—M. D. Holmes

PART I

A VOYAGE TO LILLIPUT

CHAPTER I

A SHIPWRECK AND A CAPTURE

MY FATHER had a small estate in Nottinghamshire; I was the third of five sons. He sent me to Emanuel College in Cambridge, at fourteen years old, where I resided three years and applied myself closely to my studies. But the charge of maintaining me, although I had a very scanty allowance, being too great for a narrow fortune, I was bound apprentice* to Mr. James Bates, an eminent surgeon in London, with whom I continued four years. My father now and then sent me small sums of money, which I laid out in learning navigation† and other parts of mathematics, useful to those who intend to travel, as I always believed that it would be, some time or other, my fortune to do. When I left Mr. Bates, I obtained from my father and my uncle John forty pounds and a promise of thirty pounds a year to maintain me at Leyden.‡ There I studied medicine for two years and seven months, knowing that it would be useful to me in long voyages.

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* An apprentice worked for his master while learning a trade or profession.

† The science of directing a ship in its course.

‡ A town in Holland famous for its University.

Soon after my return from Leyden, I was recommended by my good master, Mr. Bates, to be surgeon to the "Swallow," a ship on which I stayed three years and a half, making a voyage or two into the Levant,* and some other parts. When I came back, I resolved to settle in London; to which Mr. Bates, my master, encouraged me, and by him I was recommended to several patients. I rented part of a small house, and married Miss Mary Burton, daughter of a hosier, with whom I received four hundred pounds for a dowry.

However, in about two years Mr. Bates died, and my practice, which was small, began to fail. Having consulted with my wife, I determined to go again to sea. I was surgeon successively in two ships and made several voyages, for six years, to the East and West Indies, by which I got some addition to my fortune. My hours of leisure I spent in reading the best authors, ancient and modern, being always provided with a good number of books. When I was ashore, I observed the manners and dispositions of the people and learned their language, wherein I had a great facility, by the strength of my memory.

The last of these voyages not proving very fortunate, I grew weary of the sea and intended to stay at home with my wife and family. But after three years of small success, I accepted an offer to make a voyage to the South Seas on the ship "Antelope." We set sail from Bristol on May 4, 1699.

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* The Near East—Turkey, Syria, etc.

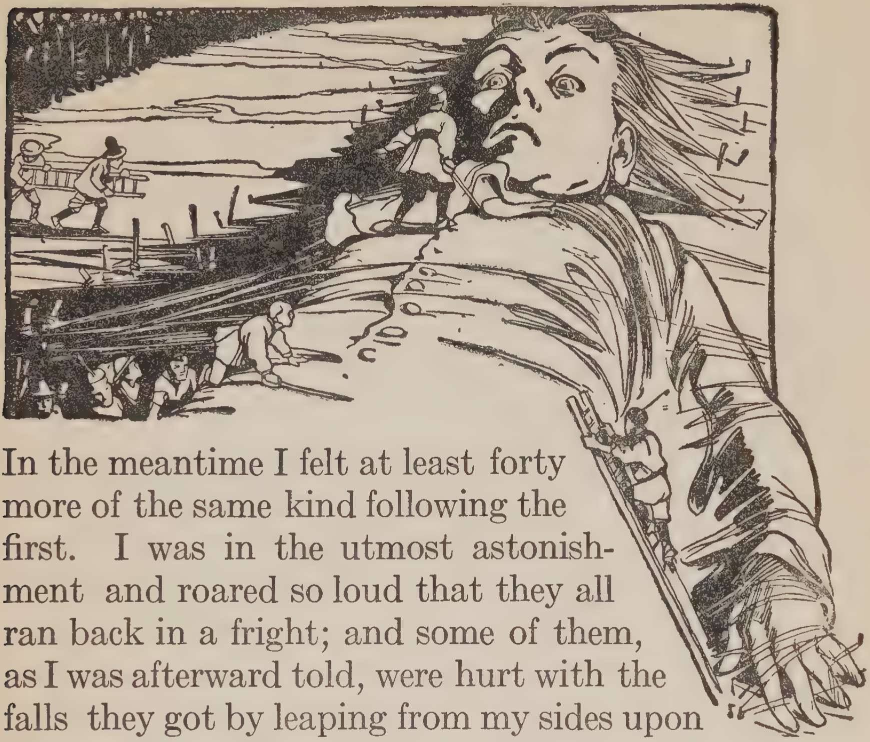
Our voyage to the South Seas was very prosperous, but in our passage thence to the East Indies we were driven by a violent storm to the northwest of Van Diemen's Land. Twelve of our crew died of immoderate labor and ill food; the rest were in a very weak condition. On the fifth of November, which was the beginning of summer in those parts, the weather being very hazy, the seamen spied a rock within half a cable's length of the ship, but the wind was so strong that we were driven directly upon it and immediately split.

Six of the crew, of whom I was one, having let down the boat into the sea, made a shift to get clear of the ship and the rock. We rowed about three leagues, till we were able to work no longer, being already spent with labor while we were in the ship. We therefore trusted ourselves to the mercy of the waves, and in about half an hour the boat was overset by a sudden flurry from the north. What became of my companions in the boat, as well as of those who escaped on the rock, or were left in the vessel, I cannot tell, but conclude that they were all lost.

For my own part, I swam as fortune directed me and was pushed forward by wind and tide. I often let my legs drop and could feel no bottom, but when I was almost gone and able to struggle no longer, I found myself within my depth; and by this time the storm was much abated. The slope was so small that I walked near a mile before I got to the shore, at about eight o'clock in the evening. I advanced near half a mile, but could not discover any sign of houses or inhabitants. I was extremely tired, and with that and the heat of the weather and about half a pint of brandy that I drank as I left the ship, I found myself much inclined to sleep. I lay down on the grass, which was very short and soft, where I slept sounder than ever I remembered to have done in my life.

When I awaked, it was just daylight. I attempted to rise, but was not able to stir; for, as I happened to lie on my back, I found my arms and legs were strongly fastened on each side to the ground; and my hair, which was long and thick, tied down in the same manner. I likewise felt several slender cords across my body, from my armpits to my thighs. I could only look upward; the sun began to grow hot and the light offended my eyes. I heard a confused noise about me; but as I lay, could see nothing except the sky.

In a little time I felt something alive moving on my left leg. Advancing gently forward over my breast, it came almost up to my chin. Bending my eyes downward as much as I could, I perceived it to be a human creature not six inches high, with a bow and arrow in his hands and a quiver at his back.



In the meantime I felt at least forty more of the same kind following the first. I was in the utmost astonishment and roared so loud that they all ran back in a fright; and some of them, as I was afterward told, were hurt with the falls they got by leaping from my sides upon the ground. However, they soon returned, and one of them, who ventured so far as to get a full sight of my face, lifting up his hands and eyes by way of admiration, cried out in a shrill but distinct voice, *Hekinah degul!* The others repeated the same words several times, but I then knew not what they meant.

I lay all this while in great uneasiness. At length, struggling to get loose, I had the fortune to break the strings and wrench out the pegs that fastened my left arm to the ground. At the same time, with a violent pull, which gave me excessive pain, I a little loosened the strings that tied down my hair on the left side, so that I was just able to turn my head about two inches. But the creatures ran off a second time, before I could seize them. There was a great shout in a very shrill accent and after it had ceased, I heard one of them cry aloud, *Tolgo phonac;* when in an instant I felt above a hundred arrows discharged on my left hand, which pricked me like so many needles. Besides they shot another flight into the air, whereof many, I suppose, fell on my body (though I felt them not), and some on my face, which I immediately covered with my left hand.

When this shower of arrows was over, I fell a groaning with grief and pain and then strove again to get loose. They discharged another volley larger than the first and some of them attempted with spears to stick me in the sides; but by good luck I had on me a buff jerkin,* which they could not pierce. I thought it the most prudent method to lie still, and my design was to continue so till night, when, my left hand being already loose, I could easily free myself; and as for the inhabitants, I had reason to believe I might be a match for the greatest army they could bring against me, if they were all of the same size with him that I saw.

When the people observed that I was quiet, they discharged no more arrows; but, by the noise I heard, I knew that their numbers increased. About four yards from me, over against my right ear, I heard a knocking for above an hour, like that of people at work. Turning my head that way, as well as the pegs and strings would permit me, I saw a stage erected about a foot and a half from the ground, capable of holding four of the inhabitants, with two or three ladders to mount it. From here one of them, who seemed to be a person of quality, made me a long speech, whereof I understood not a syllable. Before he began his oration, he cried out three times, *Langro dehul san* (these words and the former were afterwards repeated and explained to me). Whereupon, immediately about fifty of the inhabitants came and cut the strings that fastened the left side of my head, which gave me the liberty of turning it to the right and of observing the person and gesture of him that was to speak.

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* A close-fitting jacket of leather.

He appeared to be of a middle age and taller than any of the three who attended him, whereof one was a page that held up his train and seemed to be somewhat longer than my middle finger; the other two stood one on each side to support him. He acted every part of an orator, and I could observe many gestures of threatening and others of promises, pity, and kindness.

I answered in a few words, but in the most submissive manner, lifting up my left hand and both my eyes to the sun, as calling him for a witness. Being almost famished with hunger, having not eaten a morsel for some hours before I left the ship, I could not help showing my impatience by putting my finger frequently to my mouth to signify that I wanted food.

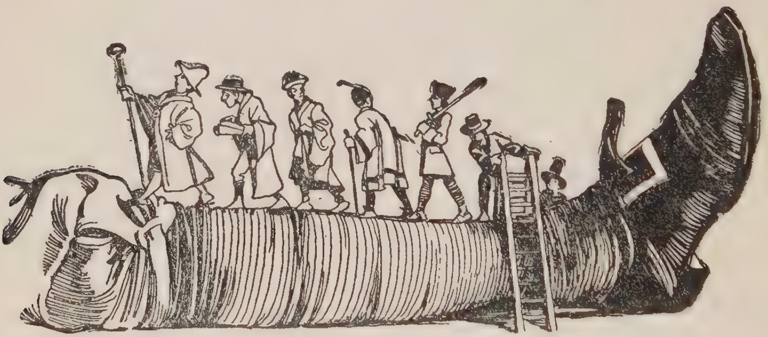
The *hurgo* (for so they call a great lord, as I afterward learned) understood me very well. He descended from the stage and commanded that several ladders should be applied to my sides, on which above a hundred of the inhabitants mounted and walked toward my mouth, laden with baskets full of meat, which had been provided and sent thither by the king's orders, upon the first intelligence he received of me. I observed that there was the flesh of several animals, but I could not distinguish them by the taste. There were shoulders, legs, and loins, shaped like those of mutton and very well dressed, but smaller than the wings of a lark. I ate them by two or three at a mouthful and took three loaves at a time, about the bigness of musket bullets. They supplied me as fast as they could, showing a thousand marks of wonder and astonishment at my bulk and appetite.

I then made another sign that I wanted drink. They found by my eating that a small quantity would not suffice me; and being a most ingenious people, they slung up one of their largest hogsheads, then rolled it toward my hand and beat out the top; I drank it off at a draught, which I might well do, for it did not hold half a pint. They brought me a second hogshead, which I drank in the same manner, and made signs for more, but they had none to give me. When I had performed these wonders, they shouted for joy and danced upon my breast, repeating several times as they did at first, *Hekinah degul.* They made me a sign that I should throw down the two hogsheads, but first warning the people below to stand out of the way, crying aloud, *Borach mevolah;* and when they saw the vessels in the air, there was a universal shout of *Hekinah degul.*

I confess I was often tempted, while they were passing backwards and forwards on my body, to seize forty or fifty of the first that came in my reach and dash them against the ground. But I now considered myself as bound by the laws of hospitality, to a people who had treated me with so much expense and magnificence. However, in my thoughts I could not sufficiently wonder at the fearlessness of these tiny mortals, who durst venture to mount and walk upon my body while one of my hands was at liberty, without trembling at the very sight of so huge a creature as I must appear to them.

After some time, when they observed that I made no more demands for meat, there appeared before me a person of high rank from his imperial majesty. His excellency, having mounted on the small of my right leg, advanced forwards up to my face, with about a dozen of his retinue. He spoke about ten minutes without any signs of anger, often pointing forwards toward the capital city, about half a mile distant, whither it was agreed by his majesty in council that I must be conveyed. I answered in few words, but to no purpose, and made a sign with my hand that was loose, putting it to the other, and then to my own head and body, to signify that I desired my liberty.

It appeared that he understood me well enough, for he shook his head and held his hands in a posture to show that I must be carried as a prisoner. However, he made other signs to let me understand that I should have meat and drink enough and very good treatment. Whereupon I once more thought of attempting to break my bonds; but again, when I felt the smart of their arrows upon my face and hands, which were all in blisters and many of the darts still sticking in them, and observing likewise that the number of my enemies increased, I gave tokens to let them know that they might do with me what they pleased. Upon this, the *hurgo* and his train withdrew, with much civility and cheerful countenances.



Soon after I heard a general shout, with frequent repetitions of the words, *Peplom selan;* and I felt great numbers of people on my left side relaxing the cords to such a degree that I was able to turn upon my right side. Before this, they had daubed my face and both my hands with a sort of ointment, very pleasant to the smell, which, in a few minutes, removed all the smart of their arrows. These circumstances, added to the refreshment that I had received by their victuals and drink, which were very nourishing, disposed me to sleep. I slept about eight hours.

It seems that when I was first discovered sleeping upon the ground, the emperor determined in council that I should be tied fast, that plenty of meat and drink should be sent me and a machine prepared to carry me to the capital city.

These people are most excellent mathematicians, owing to the encouragement of the emperor, who is a renowned patron of learning. This prince has several machines fixed on wheels, for the carriage of trees and other great weights. He often builds his largest men-of-war, whereof some are nine feet long, in the woods where the timber grows and has them carried on these engines* three or four hundred yards to the sea. Five hundred carpenters and engineers were immediately set at work to prepare the greatest engine they had, and in four hours after I landed, it was ready to set out. It was a frame of wood, raised three inches from the ground, about seven feet long and four wide, moving upon twenty-two wheels.

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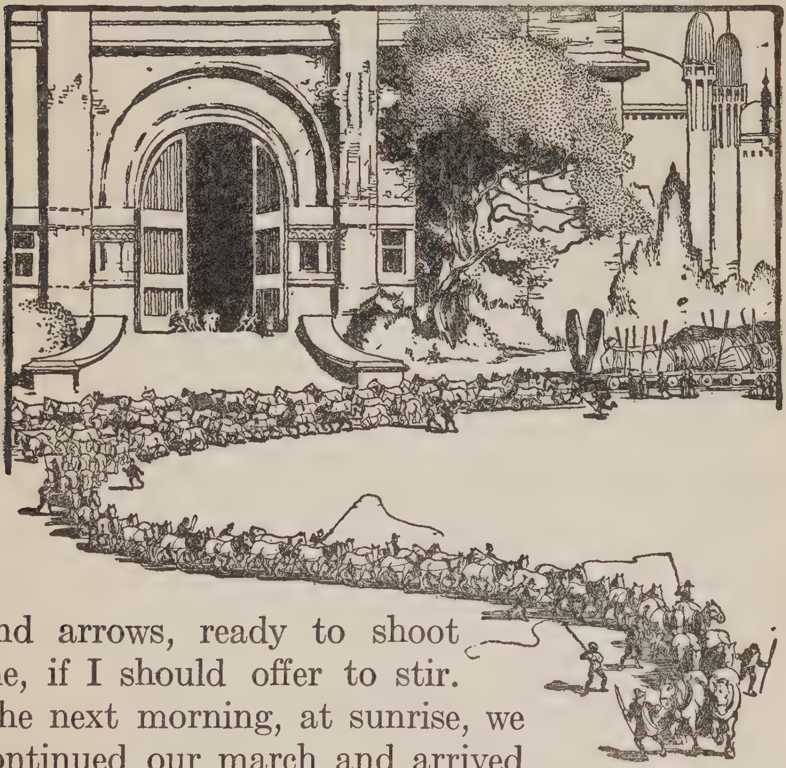
* In the eighteenth century the word *engine* meant any sort of machine or mechanical tool.

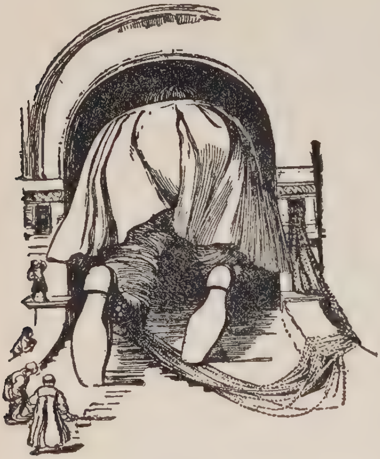
It was brought parallel to me where I lay asleep; and now the difficulty was to raise and place me in this vehicle. Eighty poles, each one foot high, were erected for this purpose and very strong cords, of the bigness of packthread, were fastened by hooks to many bandages, which the workmen had girt round my neck, my hands, my body, and my legs. Nine hundred of the strongest men were employed to draw up these cords by many pulleys fastened on the poles; and thus, in less than three hours, I was raised and slung into the engine and there tied fast. Fifteen hundred of the emperor's largest horses, each about four inches and a half high, were employed to draw me toward the metropolis, which, as I said, was half a mile distant.

About four hours after we began our journey, I awaked by a very ridiculous accident. The carriage stopped awhile, to adjust something that was out of order, and two or three of the young natives had the curiosity to see how I looked when I was asleep. They climbed up into the engine and advancing very softly to my face, one of them, an officer in the guards, put the sharp end of his half-pike a good way up into my left nostril, which tickled my nose like a straw and made me sneeze violently; whereupon they stole off, unperceived, and it was three weeks before I knew the cause of my awaking so suddenly.

We made a long march the remaining part of the day and rested at night with five hundred guards on each side of me, half with torches and half with bows and arrows, ready to shoot me, if I should offer to stir. The next morning, at sunrise, we continued our march and arrived within two hundred yards of the city gates about noon. The emperor and all his court came out to meet us; but his great officers would by no means suffer his majesty to endanger his person by mounting on my body.



At the place where the carriage stopped, there stood an ancient abandoned temple, esteemed to be the largest in the whole kingdom. Here it was determined that I should lodge. The great gate, fronting to the north, was about four feet high and almost two feet wide, through which I could easily creep. On each side of the gate was a small window, not above six inches from the ground; into that on the left side the king's smith conveyed fourscore and eleven chains, like those that hang to a lady's watch in Europe and almost as large, which were locked to my left leg with six-and-thirty padlocks.

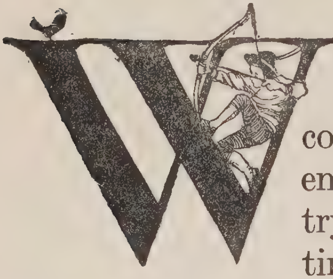


Over against this temple, on the other side of the great highway, at twenty feet distance, there was a turret at least five feet high. Here the emperor ascended, with many principal lords of his court, to have an opportunity of viewing me. It was reckoned that above a hundred thousand inhabitants came out of the town upon the same errand; and, in spite of my guards, I believe there could not be fewer than ten thousand, at several times, who mounted my body, by the help of ladders. But a proclamation was soon issued to forbid it, upon pain of death.

When the workmen found it was impossible for me to break loose, they cut all the strings that bound me; whereupon I rose up, with as melancholy a disposition as ever I had in my life. But the noise and astonishment of the people, at seeing me rise and walk, are not to be expressed. The chains that held my left leg were about two yards long and gave me not only the liberty of walking backwards and forwards in a semicircle, but, being fixed within four inches of the gate, allowed me to creep in and lie at my full length in the temple.

CHAPTER II

GULLIVER MEETS THE EMPEROR



WHEN I found myself on my feet, I looked about me, and must confess I never beheld a more entertaining prospect. The country around appeared like a continued garden and the inclosed fields, which were generally forty feet square, resembled so many beds of flowers. These fields were intermingled with woods and the tallest trees, as I could judge, appeared to be seven feet high. I viewed the town on my left hand, which looked like the painted scenes of a city in a theater.

I soon came out of my house, having occasion for fresh air. The emperor was already descended from the tower and advancing on horseback toward me, which had like to have cost him dear; for the beast, though very well trained, yet wholly unused to such a sight, which appeared as if a mountain moved before him, reared up on his hinder feet; but that prince, who is an excellent horseman, kept his seat till his attendants ran in, and held the bridle while his majesty had time to dismount. When he alighted, he surveyed me round with great admiration, but kept beyond the length of my chain.

He ordered his cooks and butlers, who were already prepared, to give me victuals and drink, which they pushed forward in a sort of vessel upon wheels, till I could reach them. I soon emptied all these vessels; twenty of them were filled with meat and ten with liquor. Each of the former afforded me two or three good mouthfuls; and I emptied the liquor of the ten vessels into one, drinking it off at a draught.

The empress and young princes of the blood of both sexes, attended by many ladies, sat at some distance in their chairs; but upon the accident that happened to the emperor's horse, they alighted and came near his person, which I am now going to describe.* He is taller, by almost the breadth of my nail, than any of his court; which alone is enough to strike an awe into the beholders. His features are strong and masculine, with an Austrian lip and arched nose, his complexion olive, his countenance erect, his body and limbs well proportioned, all his motions graceful, and his deportment majestic. He was then past his prime, being twenty-eight years and three quarters old, of which he had reigned about seven in great felicity and generally victorious.

For the better convenience of beholding him, I lay on my side, so that my face was parallel to his, and he stood but three yards off: however. I have had him since many times in my hand. His dress was very plain and simple, but he had on his head a light helmet of gold, adorned with jewels and a plume on the crest. He held his sword drawn in his hand to defend himself, if I should happen to break loose: it was almost three inches long; the hilt and scabbard were gold enriched with diamonds. His voice was shrill, but very clear and articulate; and I could distinctly hear it when I stood up. The ladies and courtiers were all most magnificently clad, so that the spot they stood upon seemed to resemble a petticoat spread on the ground, embroidered with figures of gold and silver.

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* Perhaps this is a portrait of George I.

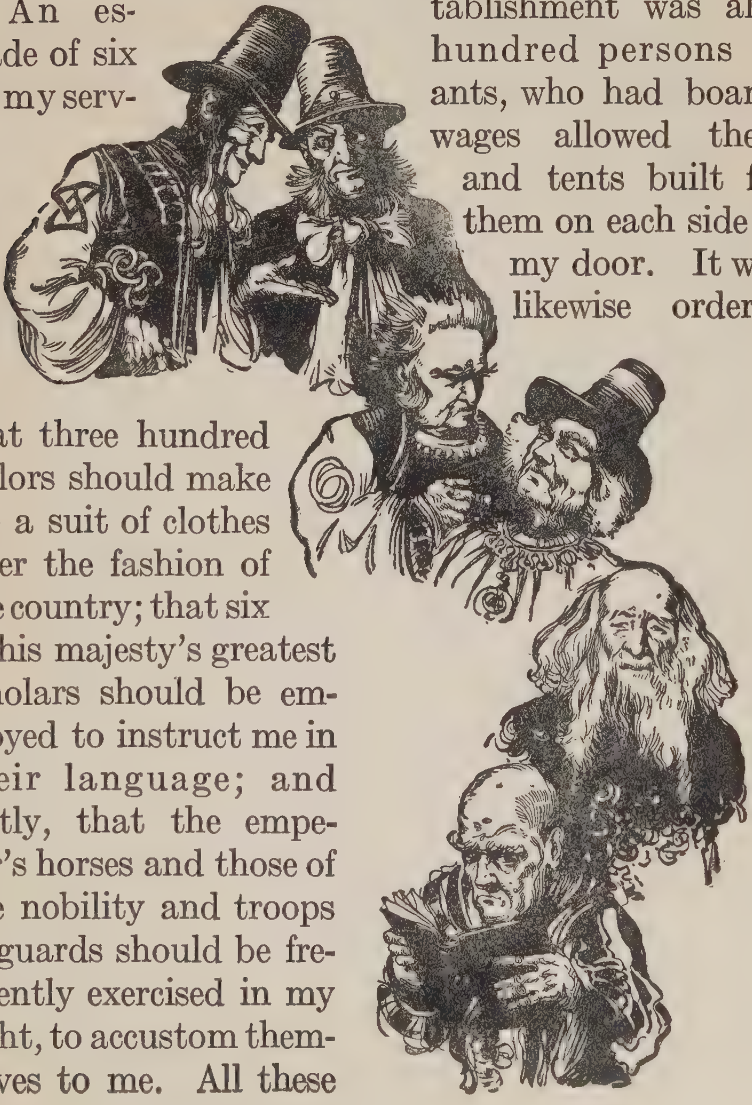
His imperial majesty spoke often to me and I returned answers; but neither of us could understand a syllable. There were several of his priests and lawyers present who were commanded to address themselves to me; and I spoke to them in as many languages as I had the least smattering of, which were Dutch, Latin, French, Spanish, and Italian; but all to no purpose.

After about two hours the court retired and I was left with a strong guard, to prevent the impertinence, and probably the malice of the rabble, who were very impatient to crowd about me as near as they durst. Some of them had the impudence to shoot their arrows at me, as I sat on the ground by the door of my house, whereof one very narrowly missed my left eye. But the colonel ordered six of the ringleaders to be seized and thought no punishment so proper as to deliver them bound into my hands; which some of his soldiers accordingly did, pushing them forwards with the butt ends of their pikes into my reach. I took them all in my right hand, put five of them into my coat pocket, and as to the sixth, I made a countenance as if I would eat him alive. The poor man squalled terribly and the colonel and his officers were in much pain, especially when they saw me take out my penknife; but I soon put them out of fear. Looking mildly and immediately cutting the strings he was bound with, I set him gently on the ground and away he ran. I treated the rest in the same manner, taking them one by one out of my pocket; and I observed that both the soldiers and people were highly delighted.

Toward night I got with some difficulty into my house, where I lay on the ground, and continued to do so about a fortnight; during which time the emperor gave orders to have a bed prepared for me. Six hundred beds of the common measure were brought in carriages and worked up in my house; a hundred and fifty of their beds, sewn together, made up the breadth and length, and these were four double; which, however, kept me but very indifferently from the hardness of the floor, that was of smooth stone. They provided me also with sheets, blankets, and coverlets, tolerable enough for one who had been so long used to hardships.

As the news of my arrival spread through the kingdom, it brought great numbers—rich, idle, and curious people—to see me; so that the villages were almost emptied and great neglect of farm and household affairs must have ensued, if his imperial majesty had not provided, by several proclamations and orders of state, against this. He directed that those who had already beheld me should return home and not presume to come within fifty yards of my house without license from the court; whereby the secretary of state got considerable fees.

In the meantime the emperor held frequent councils, to debate what course should be taken with me. The court feared my breaking loose; they felt that my diet would be very expensive and might cause a famine. Sometimes they determined to starve me, or at least to shoot me in the face and hands with poisoned arrows, which would soon dispatch me; but again they considered that the stench of so large a carcass might produce a plague in the city that might spread through the whole kingdom. In the midst of these consultations, several officers of the army went to the door of the great council chamber, and two of them being admitted, gave an account of my behavior to the six criminals above-mentioned. This made so favorable an impression that an imperial commission was issued out, obliging all the villages, nine hundred yards round the city, to deliver every morning six beeves, forty sheep, and other victuals for my sustenance; together with a quantity of bread and wine and other liquors; for the due payment of which his majesty gave orders upon his treasury.



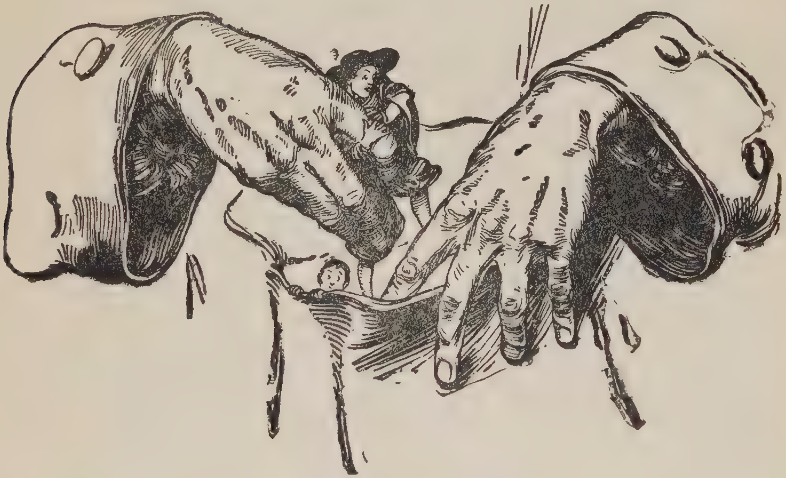
An establishment was also made of six hundred persons to be my servants, who had board-wages allowed them and tents built for them on each side of my door. It was likewise ordered that three hundred tailors should make me a suit of clothes after the fashion of the country; that six of his majesty's greatest scholars should be employed to instruct me in their language; and lastly, that the emperor's horses and those of the nobility and troops of guards should be frequently exercised in my sight, to accustom themselves to me. All these orders were duly put in execution; and in about three weeks I made great progress in learning their language. The emperor frequently honored me with his visits and was pleased to assist my masters in teaching me.

We began already to converse together; and the first words I learned were to express my desire that he would be pleased to give me my liberty; which I every day repeated on my knees. His answer was that this must be a work of time, not to be thought on without the advice of his council, and that first I must swear a peace with him and his kingdom. However, that I should be used with all kindness. And he advised me to acquire by my patience and discreet behavior the good opinion of himself and his subjects.

He desired that I would not take it ill if he gave orders to certain proper officers to search me; for probably I might carry about me several weapons, which must needs be dangerous things, if they answered the bulk of so huge a person. I said that his majesty should be satisfied; for I was ready to strip myself and turn out my pockets before him. This I delivered, part in words, and part in signs.

He replied that, by the laws of the kingdom, I must be searched by two of his officers; that he knew this could not be done without my consent and assistance; and he had so good an opinion of my generosity and justice, as to trust their persons in my hands; that whatever they took from me should be returned when I left the country, or paid for at the rate which I would set upon them.

I took up the two officers in my hands, put them first into my coat pockets, and then into every other pocket about me, except my two fobs and another secret pocket, which I had no mind should be searched, wherein I had some little necessaries that were of no consequence to any but myself. In one of my fobs there was a silver watch and in the other a small quantity of gold in a purse. These gentlemen, having pen, ink, and paper about them, made an exact inventory of everything that they saw; and when they had done, desired I would set them down, that they might deliver it to the emperor. This inventory I afterwards translated into English and is word for word as follows:



In the right coat pocket of the great Man-mountain, after the strictest search, we found only one great piece of coarse cloth, large enough to be a footcloth for your majesty's chief room of state. In the left pocket we saw a huge silver chest, with a cover of the same metal, which we, the searchers, were not able to lift.* We desired that it should be opened, and one of us stepping into it, found himself up to the mid leg in a sort of dust, some part whereof flying up to our faces, set us both a-sneezing for several times together.

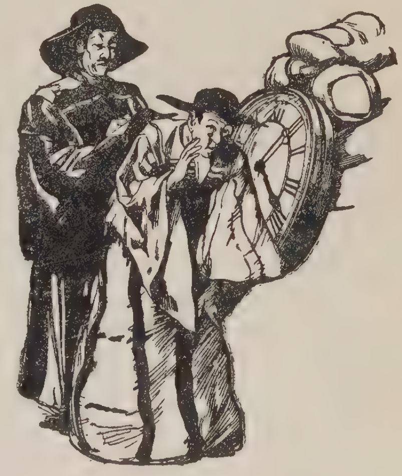
In his right waistcoat pocket we found a prodigious bundle of white thin substance, folded one over another, about the bigness of three men, tied with a strong cable, and marked with black figures; which we humbly conceive to be writings, every letter almost half as large as the palm of our hands. In the left there was a sort of engine, from the back of which were extended twenty long poles, resembling the fence before your majesty's court, wherewith the man-mountain combs his head.

In the large pocket, on the right side of his breeches, we saw a hollow pillar of iron,† about the length of a man, fastened to a strong piece of timber larger than the pillar; and upon one side of the pillar were huge pieces of iron sticking out, cut into strange figures, which we knew not what to make of. In the left pocket, another engine of the same kind. In the smaller pocket on the right side were several round flat pieces of white and red metal, of different bulk; some of the white, which seemed to be silver, were so large and heavy that my comrade and I could hardly lift them. In the left pocket were two black pillars irregularly shaped: we could not, without difficulty, reach the

* A snuff box.

† A pistol.

top of them, as we stood at the bottom of his pocket. One of them was covered and seemed all of a piece: but at the upper end of the other there appeared a white round substance, about twice the bigness of our heads. Within each of these was inclosed a huge plate of steel; which, by our orders, we obliged him to show us. He took them out of their cases and told us that in his own country his practice was to shave his beard with one of these and cut his meat with the other.



There were two pockets which we could not enter; these he called his fobs. They were two large slits, cut into the tops of his breeches, but squeezed close by the pressure of his body. Out of the right fob hung a great silver chain, with a wonderful kind of engine at the bottom. We directed him to draw out whatever was at the end of that chain; which appeared to be a globe, half silver and half of some transparent metal; for, on the transparent side, we saw certain strange figures circularly drawn and thought we could touch them, till we found our fingers stopped by that lucid substance. He put this engine to our ears, which made an incessant noise, like that of a water mill; and we think it is either some unknown animal or the god that he worships; but we are more inclined to the latter opinion, because he assured us that he seldom did anything without consulting it. He called it his oracle and said it pointed out the time for every action of his life. From the left fob he took out a net almost large enough for a fisherman, but contrived to open and shut like a purse. We found therein several massy pieces of yellow metal, which, if they be real gold, must be of immense value.

Having thus, in obedience to your majesty's commands, diligently searched all his pockets, we observed a girdle about his waist made of the hide of some prodigious animal, from which, on the left side, hung a sword of the length of five men; and on the right, a bag or pouch* divided into two cells, each cell capable of holding three of your majesty's subjects. In one of these cells were several globes or balls, of a most ponderous metal, about the bigness of our heads, and required a strong hand to lift them: the other cell contained a heap of certain black grains, but of no great bulk or weight, for we could hold above fifty of them in the palms of our hands.

This is an exact inventory of what we found about the body of the man-mountain, who used us with great civility and due respect to your majesty's commission. Signed and sealed on the fourth day of the eighty-ninth moon of your majesty's auspicious reign.

CLEFRIN FRELOCK
MARSI FRELOCK

When this inventory was read over to the emperor, he directed me, although in very gentle terms, to deliver up the several particulars. He first called for my scimitar, which I took out, scabbard and all. In the meantime, he ordered three thousand of the choicest troops to surround me at a distance, with their bows and arrows just ready to discharge; but I did not observe it, for mine eyes were wholly fixed upon his majesty. He then desired me to draw my scimitar, which, although it had got some rust by the sea water, was in most parts, exceeding bright. I did so and immediately all the troops gave a shout between terror and surprise; for the sun shone clear and the reflection dazzled their eyes, as I waved the scimitar to and fro in my hand. His majesty was less daunted than I could expect; he ordered me to return it into the scabbard and cast it on the ground as gently as I could, about six feet from the end of my chain.

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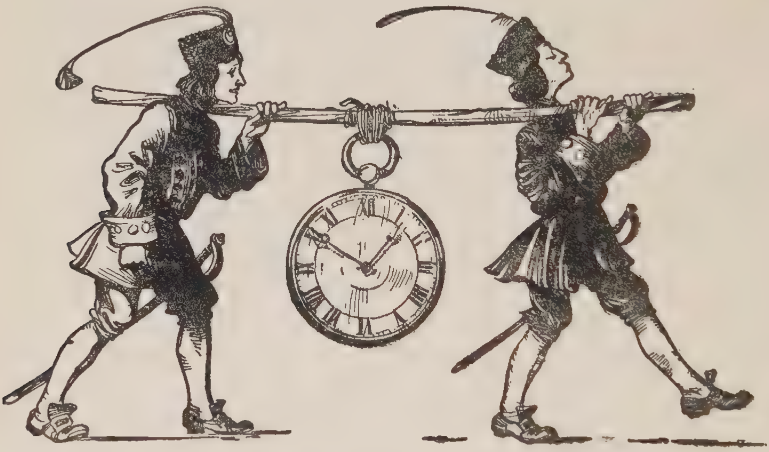
* An ammunition pouch containing powder and bullets.

The next thing that he demanded was one of the hollow iron pillars; by which he meant my pocket pistols. I drew it out, and at his desire, as well as I could, expressed to him the use of it; and charging it only with powder, I first cautioned the emperor not to be afraid and then I let it off in the air. The astonishment was much greater than at the sight of the scimitar. Hundreds fell down as if struck dead; and even the emperor, though he stood his ground, did not recover for some time.

I delivered up both my pistols and then my pouch of powder and bullets, begging him that the former be kept from fire, for it would kindle with the smallest spark and blow up the imperial palace. I likewise delivered up my watch, which the emperor was very curious to see, and commanded two of his tallest yeomen of the guards to bear it on a pole upon their shoulders, as draymen in England do a barrel of ale. He was amazed at the continual noise it made and the motion of the minute hand, which he could easily discern, for their sight is much keener than ours.

I then gave up my silver and copper money, my purse with nine large pieces of gold, and some smaller ones; my knife and razor, my comb and silver snuff box, my handkerchief and journal book. My scimitar, pistols, and pouch were conveyed in carriages to his majesty's stores; but the rest of my goods were returned me.



I had, as I before observed, one private pocket, which escaped their search, wherein there was a pair of spectacles (which I sometimes use for the weakness of mine eyes), a pocket telescope, and some other little conveniences; which, being of no consequence to the emperor, I did not think myself bound in honor to discover and I feared they might be lost or spoiled if I ventured them out of my possession.

CHAPTER III

AMUSEMENTS AT THE COURT OF LILLIPUT

MY gentleness and good behavior had gained so far on the emperor and his court and indeed upon the army and people in general, that I began to conceive hopes of getting my liberty in a short time. I took all possible methods to cultivate this favorable disposition. The natives came by degrees to be less apprehensive of any danger from me. I would sometimes lie down and let five or six of them dance on my hand; and at last the boys and girls would venture to come and play at hide and seek in my hair. I had now made a good progress in understanding and speaking the language. The emperor had a mind one day to entertain me with several of the country shows, wherein they exceeded all nations I have known, both for dexterity and magnificence. I was diverted with none so much as that of the rope dancers, performed upon a slender white thread, extended about two feet and twelve inches from the ground.

This diversion is only practiced by those persons who are candidates for great employments and high favor at court. They are trained in this art from their youth and are not always of noble birth or liberal education. When a great office is vacant, either by death or disgrace (which often happens), five or six of those candidates petition the emperor to entertain his majesty and the court with a dance on the rope; and whoever jumps the highest, without falling, succeeds in the office.* Very often the chief ministers themselves are commanded to show their skill and to convince the emperor that they have not lost their faculty. Flimnap, the treasurer, can cut a caper on the straight rope at least an inch higher than any other lord in the whole empire.

These diversions are often attended with fatal accidents, whereof great numbers are on record. I myself have seen two or three candidates break a limb. But the danger is much greater when the ministers themselves are commanded to show their dexterity; for, by trying to excel themselves and their fellows, they strain so far that there is hardly one of them who has not received a fall and some of them two or three. I was assured that, a year or two before my arrival, Flimnap would have broken his neck, if one of the king's cushions, that accidentally lay on the ground, had not weakened the force of his fall.

There is likewise another diversion, which is only shown before the emperor and empress and the first minister, upon particular occasions. The emperor lays on the table three fine silken threads of six inches long: one is blue, the other red, and the third green.* These threads are proposed as prizes for those persons whom the emperor has a mind to distinguish by a peculiar mark of his favor. The ceremony is performed in his majesty's great chamber of state. The emperor holds a stick in his hands, both ends parallel to the horizon, while the candidates advancing, one by one, sometimes leap over the stick, sometimes creep under it, backward and forward, several times, according as the stick is advanced or depressed. Sometimes the emperor holds one end of the stick and the first minister the other; sometimes the minister has it entirely to himself. Whoever performs his part with the most agility and holds out the longest in leaping and creeping, is rewarded with the blue-colored silk; the red is given to the next and the green to the third, which they all wear girt twice round about the middle; and you see few great persons about this court who are not adorned with one of these girdles.

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* Swift is making fun of the ministers of State in the English government, who tried so hard to win offices for themselves.

The horses of the army and those of the royal stables, having been daily led before me, were no longer shy, but would come up to my very feet without starting. The riders would leap them over my hand, as I held it on the ground; and one of the emperor's huntsmen, upon a large courser, took my foot, shoe and all; which was indeed a prodigious leap.

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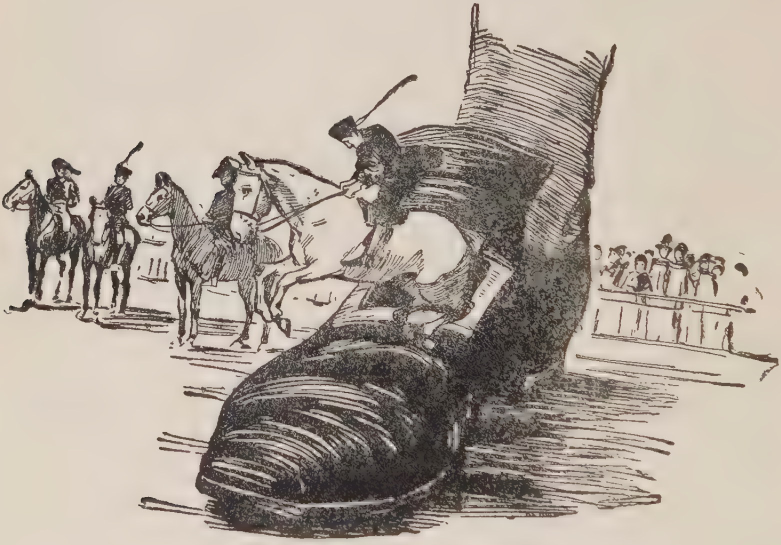
* These threads mean the decorations of the three orders of knighthood in England, the blue for the Knights of the Garter, the red for those of the Bath, and the green for those of the Thistle.

I had the good fortune to divert the emperor one day after a very extraordinary manner. I desired that he would order several sticks two feet high and the thickness of an ordinary cane, to be brought me.



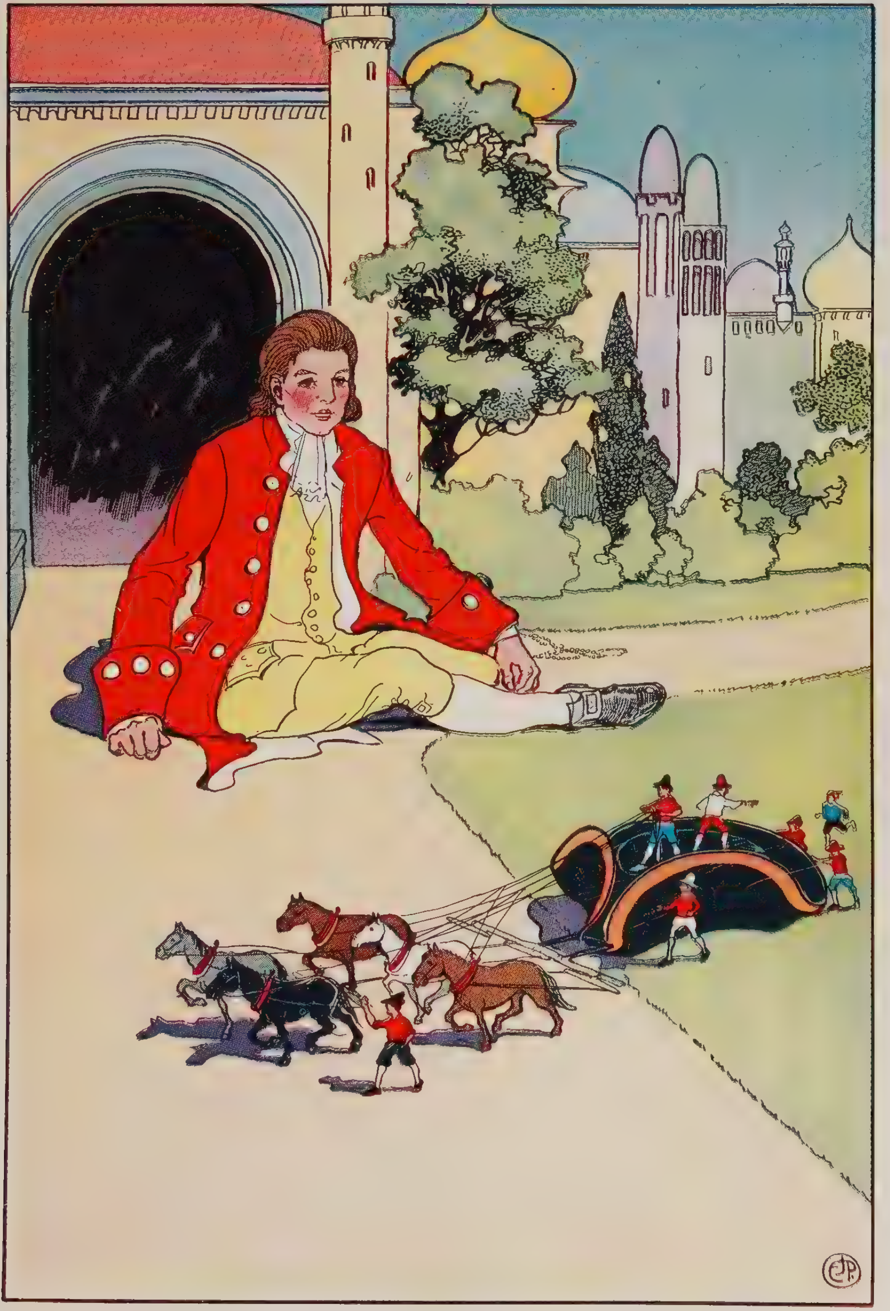
The next morning six woodmen arrived with six carriages full of sticks, drawn by eight horses to each. I took nine of these sticks, and fixing them firmly in the ground in a square, two feet and a half on each side, I took four other sticks and tied them parallel at each corner about two feet from the ground. Then I fastened my handkerchief to the nine sticks that stood erect, and extended it on all sides, till it was tight as the top of a drum. The four parallel sticks, rising about five inches higher than the handkerchief, served as ledges on each side.

When I had finished my work, I desired the emperor to let a troop of his best horses, twenty-four in number, come and exercise upon this plain. His majesty approved of the proposal and I took them up, one by one, in my hands, ready mounted and armed with the proper officers to exercise them. As soon as they got into order, they divided into two parties, performed mock skirmishes, discharged blunt arrows, drew their swords, fled and pursued, attacked and retired, and, in short, discovered the best military discipline I ever beheld. The parallel sticks secured them and their horses from falling over the stage. The emperor was so much delighted that he ordered this entertainment to be repeated several days and once was pleased to be lifted up and give the word of command. He persuaded even the empress herself to let me hold her in her close chair within two yards of the stage, when she was able to take a full view of the whole performance.

It was my good fortune that no ill accident happened in these entertainments; only once a fiery horse, that belonged to one of the captains, pawing with his hoof, struck a hole in my handkerchief, and his foot slipping, he overthrew his rider and himself. I immediately relieved them both and covering the hole with one hand, I set down the troop with the other, in the same manner as I took them up. The horse that fell was strained in the left shoulder, but the rider got no hurt; and I repaired my handkerchief as well as I could; however, I would not trust to the strength of it any more, in such dangerous enterprises.

About two or three days before I was set at liberty, as I was entertaining the court with this kind of feats, there arrived an express to inform his majesty that some of his subjects, riding near the place where I was first taken up, had seen a great black substance lying on the ground, very oddly shaped, extending its edges round, as wide as his majesty's bedchamber and rising up in the middle as high as a man. It was no living creature, as they at first apprehended, for it lay on the grass without motion and some of them had walked round it several times. By mounting upon each other's shoulders, they had got to the top, which was flat and even, and stamping upon it, they found that it was hollow within. They thought it might be something belonging to the man-mountain; and if his majesty pleased, they would undertake to bring it with only five horses.

I presently knew what they meant and was glad at heart to receive this intelligence. It seems, upon my reaching the shore after our shipwreck, I was in such confusion, that before I came to the place where I went to sleep, my hat, which had stuck on all the time I was swimming, fell off after I came to land; which I never observed, but thought my hat had been



The next day the wagoners arrived with my hat

lost at sea. I entreated his imperial majesty to give orders that it might be brought to me as soon as possible, describing to him the use and nature of it. The next day the wagoners arrived with it, but not in a very good condition. They had bored two holes in the brim, within an inch and a half of the edge, and fastened two hooks in the holes; these hooks were tied by a long cord to the harness and thus my hat was dragged along for above half an English mile; but, the ground in that country being extremely smooth and level, it received less damage than I expected.

I had so often asked for my liberty that his majesty at length mentioned the matter to the council. There it was opposed by no one except the admiral of the realm, named Skyresh Bolgolam, who chose to be my mortal enemy. He was a person well versed in affairs, but of a gloomy and sour disposition. However, he was at length persuaded to comply, on condition that the terms upon which I should be set free and to which I must swear, should be drawn up by himself. These articles were brought to me by Skyresh Bolgolam in person, attended by two under-secretaries and several persons of distinction. After they were read, I was demanded to swear to the performance of them, first, in the manner of my own country and afterward in the method precribed by their laws, which was to hold my right foot in my left hand and to place the middle finger of my right hand on the crown of my head and my thumb on the tip of my right ear.

Because the reader may be curious to have some idea of the style of expression peculiar to that people, as well as to know the terms upon which I recovered my liberty, I have made a translation of the whole document, word for word, as near as I was able.

Golbasto Momarem Evlame Gurdilo Shefin Mully Ully Gue, most mighty Emperor of Lilliput, delight and terror of the universe, whose dominions extend five thousand *blustrugs* (about twelve miles in circumference) to the extremities of the globe; monarch of all monarchs, taller than the sons of men; whose feet press down to the center and whose head strikes against the sun; at whose nod the princes of the earth shake their knees; pleasant as the spring, comfortable as the summer, fruitful as autumn, dreadful as the winter. His most sublime majesty proposes to the man-mountain, lately arrived at our dominions, the following articles, which, by a solemn oath, he shall be obliged to perform:

I. The man-mountain shall not depart from our dominions without our license under our great seal.

II. He shall not presume to come into our metropolis without our express order; at which time the inhabitants shall have two hours' warning to keep within doors.

III. The said man-mountain shall confine his walks to our principal highroads, and not offer to walk, or lie down, in a meadow or field of corn.

IV. As he walks the said roads, he shall take the utmost care not to trample upon the bodies of any of our loving subjects, their horses or carriages, nor take any of our subjects into his hands, without their own consent.

V. If an express requires extraordinary dispatch, the man-mountain shall be obliged to carry, in his pocket, the messenger and horse a six days' journey, once in every moon, and return the said messenger back (if so required) safe to our imperial presence.

VI. He shall be our ally against our enemies in the island of Blefuscu* and do his utmost to destroy their fleet, which is now preparing to invade us.

VII. That the said man-mountain shall, at his time of leisure, be aiding and assisting our workmen, in helping to raise certain great stones, toward covering the wall of the principal park and other out royal buildings.

VIII. That the said man-mountain shall, in two moons' time, deliver an exact survey of the circumference of our dominions, by measuring his own paces round the coast.

Lastly, That, upon his solemn oath to observe the above articles, the said man-mountain shall have a daily allowance of meat and drink sufficient for the support of 1724 of our subjects, with free access to our royal person and other marks of our favor. Given at our palace at Belfaborac, the twelfth day of the ninety-first moon of our reign.

I swore and subscribed to these articles with great cheerfulness and content. Thereupon my chains were immediately unlocked and I was at full liberty. The emperor himself, in person, did me the honor to be by at the whole ceremony. I made my acknowledgments by prostrating myself at his majesty's feet; but he commanded me to rise; and after many gracious expressions, he added, that he hoped "I should prove a useful servant and well deserve all the favors he had already conferred upon me, or might do for the future."

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* Probably France, as Lilliput means England.

CHAPTER IV

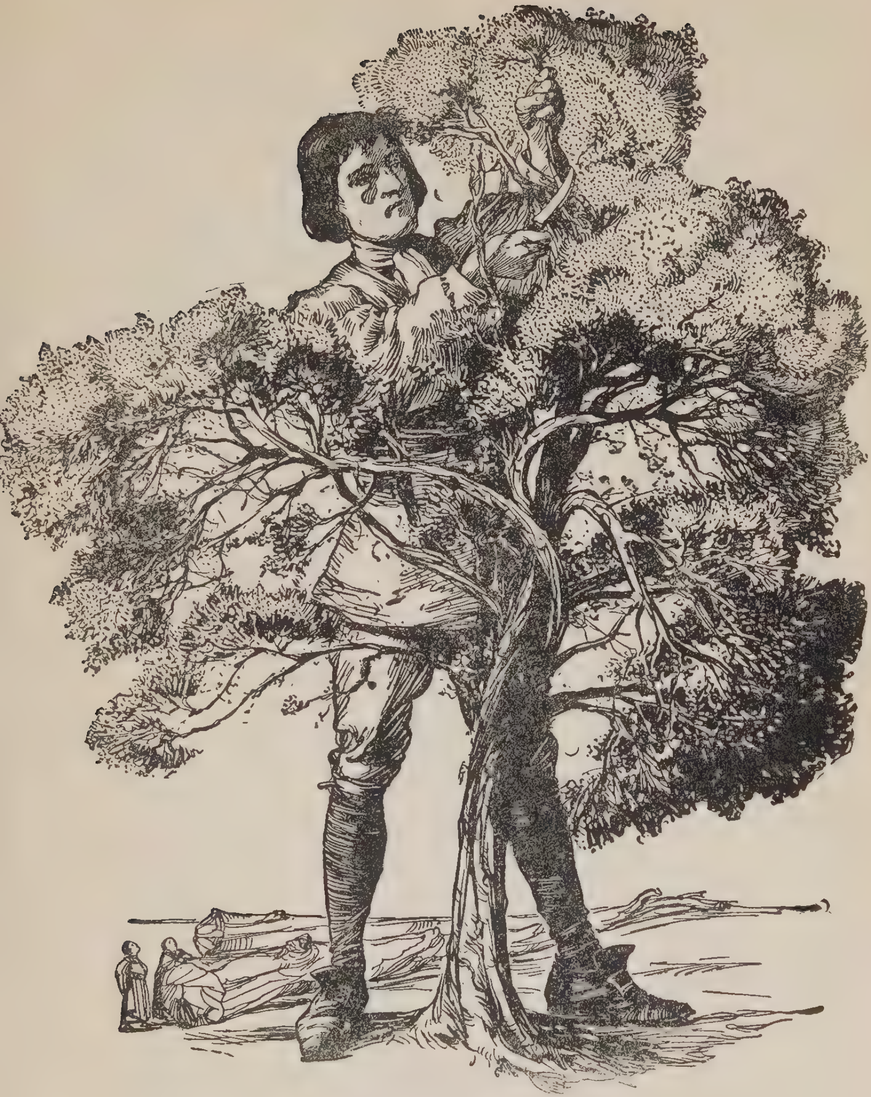
THE CAPITAL OF LILLIPUT AND THE EMPEROR'S PALACE

NOW that I was free I asked permission to see Mildendo, the capital city. This the emperor readily allowed me, but with a special charge to do no hurt either to the inhabitants or their houses. The people had notice, by proclamation, of my design to visit the town. The wall around it is two feet and a half high and at least eleven inches broad, so that a coach and horses may be driven very safely round it; and it is flanked with strong towers at ten feet distance. I stepped over the great western gate and passed very gently and sidelong through the two principal streets only in my short waistcoat, for fear of damaging the roofs and eaves of the houses with the skirts of my coat. I walked with the utmost circumspection, to avoid treading on any stragglers who might remain in the streets; although the orders were very strict that all people should keep in their houses at their own peril. The garret windows and tops of houses were so crowded with spectators that I thought in all my travels I had not seen a more populous place.

The city is an exact square, each side of the wall being five hundred feet long. The two great streets, which run across and divide it into four quarters, are five feet wide. The lanes and alleys, which I could not enter, but only viewed them as I passed, are from twelve to eighteen inches. The town is capable of holding five hundred thousand souls; the houses are from three to five stories; the shops and markets well provided.

The emperor's palace is in the center of the city, where the two great streets meet. It is inclosed by a wall of two feet high and twenty feet distance from the buildings. I had his majesty's permission to step over this wall; and the space being so wide between that and the palace, I could easily view it on every side. The outward court is a square of forty feet and includes two other courts; in the inmost are the royal apartments, which I was very desirous to see, but found it extremely difficult; for the great gates, from one square into another, were but eighteen inches wide. Now the buildings of the outer court were at least five feet high and it was impossible for me to stride over them without damage to the pile, though the walls were strongly built of hewn stone and four inches thick. At the same time the emperor had a great desire that I should see the magnificence of his palace.

I spent the next three days in cutting down with my knife some of the largest trees in the royal park,



I cut with my knife some of the largest trees about a hundred yards distance from the city. Of these trees I made two stools, each about three feet high and strong enough to bear my weight. The people having received notice a second time, I went again through the city to the palace with my two stools in my hands. When I came to the side of the outer court, I stood upon one stool and took the other in my hand; this I lifted over the roof and gently set it down on the space between the first and the second court, which was eight feet wide. I then stepped over the building very conveniently from one stool to the other and drew up the first after me with a hooked stick.

By this contrivance I got into the inner court; and lying down upon my side, I applied my face to the windows of the middle stories, which were left open on purpose, and discovered the most splendid apartments that could be imagined. There I saw the empress and the young princes, in their several lodgings, with their chief attendants about them. Her imperial majesty was pleased to smile very graciously upon me and gave me out of the window her hand to kiss.*

One morning, about a fortnight after I had obtained my liberty, Reldresal, principal secretary (as they style him) for private affairs, came to my house, attended by only one servant. He ordered his coach to wait at a distance and desired that I would give him an hour's audience. This I readily consented

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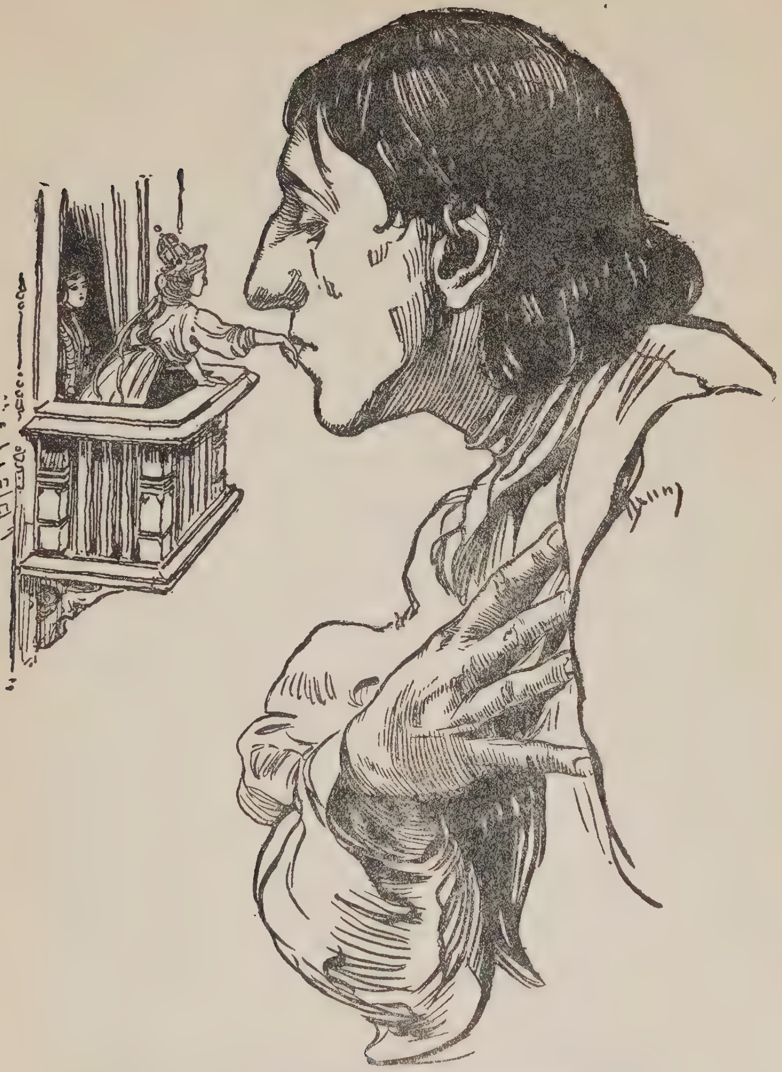
* Probably Queen Anne.



Her imperial majesty gave me her hand to kiss to, on account of his quality and personal merits, as well as of the many good offices he had done me. I offered to lie down, that he might the more conveniently reach my ear; but he chose rather to let me hold him in my hand during our conversation.

He began with compliments on my liberty, said he might pretend to some merit in it; but added that if it had not been for the present situation of things at court, perhaps I might not have obtained it so soon. "For," said he, "as flourishing a condition as we may appear to be in to foreigners, we labor under two mighty evils—a violent political strife at home and the danger of an invasion by a most powerful enemy from abroad. As to the first, you are to understand that for above seventy moons past there has been two struggling parties in this empire, under the names *Tramecksan* and *Slamecksan*, from the high and low heels of their shoes, by which they distinguish themselves. His majesty has determined to make use only of low heels in the administration of the government and all offices in the gift of the crown, as you cannot but observe; and particularly that his majesty's imperial heels are lower by at least a *drurr* than any of his court (*drurr* is a measure about the fourteenth part of an inch). The hatred between these two parties runs so high that they will neither eat nor drink nor talk with each other.

"Now, in the midst of these troubles at home, we are threatened with an invasion from the island of Blefuscu, which is the other great empire of the universe, almost as large and powerful as this of his majesty. For as to what we have heard you affirm, that there are other kingdoms and states in the world inhabited by human creatures as large as yourself, our philosophers are in much doubt and would rather conjecture that you dropped from the moon or one of the stars. Our histories of six thousand moons make no mention of any other regions than the two great empires of Lilliput and Blefuscu.

"These two mighty powers have been engaged in a most obstinate war for six-and-thirty moons past. It began upon the following occasion: it is allowed on all hands that the primitive way of breaking eggs, before we eat them, was upon the larger end; but his present majesty's grandfather, while he was a boy, going to eat an egg and breaking it according to the ancient practice, happened to cut one of his fingers; whereupon the emperor, his father, published an edict commanding all his subjects, upon great penalties, to break the smaller end of the eggs.* The people so highly resented this law that our histories tell us there have been six rebellions raised on that account; wherein one emperor lost his life† and another his crown.‡

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* This refers to the strife between the Catholic and Protestant churches, begun in the reign of Henry VIII.

† Charles I.

‡ James II.

These civil wars were constantly encouraged by the kings of Blefuscu; and when they were quelled, the exiles always fled for refuge to that empire. It is computed that eleven thousand persons have at several times suffered death rather than submit to break their eggs at the smaller end. Now, the Big Endian exiles* have found so much credit in the Emperor of Blefuscu's court, and so much private assistance and encouragement from their private party here at home, that a bloody war has been carried on between the two empires for six-and-thirty moons, with varied success. During this time we have lost forty capital ships, and a much greater number of smaller vessels, together with thirty thousand of our best seamen and soldiers; and the damage received by the enemy is reckoned to be somewhat greater than ours. However, they have now equipped a numerous fleet and are just preparing to make a descent upon us; and his imperial majesty, placing great confidence in your valor and strength, has commanded me to lay this account of his affairs before you."

I desired the secretary to present my humble duty to the emperor; and to let him know that I thought it would not become me, who was a foreigner, to interfere with parties, but I was ready, with the hazard of my life, to defend his person and state against all invaders.

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* The followers of the Stuarts took refuge in France and lived there in exile.

CHAPTER V

GULLIVER SAVES LILLIPUT FROM INVASION

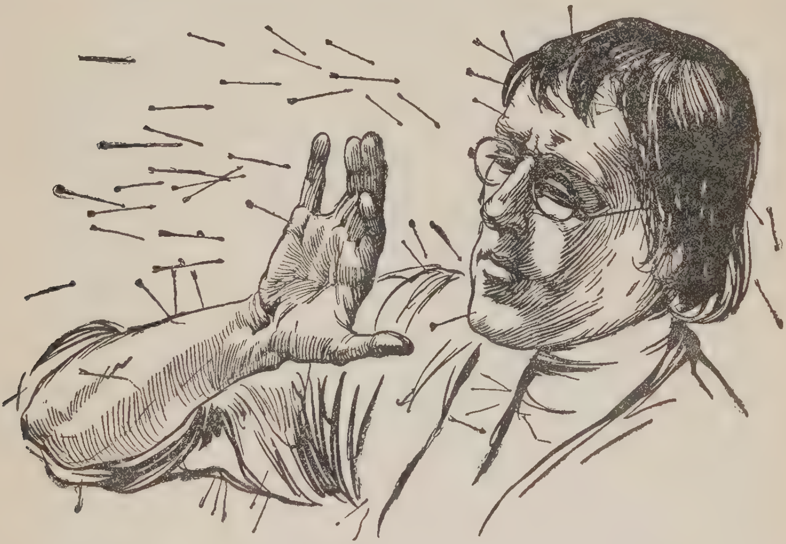
BLEFUSCU is an island northeast of Lilliput, from which it is separated by a channel eight hundred yards wide. I had not yet seen it and upon this notice of an intended invasion, I avoided appearing on that side of the coast, for fear of being discovered by some of the enemy's ships. I told his majesty of a project I had formed of seizing the enemy's whole fleet; which, as our scouts assured us, lay at anchor in the harbor, ready to sail with the first fair wind. I consulted the most experienced seamen upon the depth of the channel, who told me that in the middle, at high water, it was seventy *glumgluffs* deep, which is about six feet of European measure; and the rest of it fifty *glumgluffs* at most.

I walked toward the northeast coast, over against Blefuscu; where, lying down behind a hillock, I took out my small telescope and viewed the enemy's fleet at anchor, consisting of about fifty men-of-war and a great number of transports. I then came back to my house and gave orders for a great quantity of the strongest cable and bars of iron. The cable was about as thick as packthread and the bars of the length and size of a knitting needle. I trebled the cable to make it stronger, and for the same reason, I twisted three of the iron bars together, bending the ends into a hook.

Having thus fixed fifty hooks to as many cables, I went back to the northeast coast, and putting off my coat, shoes, and stockings, walked into the sea in my leathern jerkin, about half an hour before high water. I waded with what haste I could and swam in the middle about thirty yards, till I felt ground. I arrived at the fleet in less than half an hour. The enemy were so frighted when they saw me that they leaped out of their ships and swam to shore, where there could not be fewer than thirty thousand souls. I then took my tackling, and fastening a hook to the hole at the prow of each, I tied all the cords together at the end.

While I was thus employed, the enemy discharged several thousand arrows, many of which stuck in my hands and face; and, besides the excessive smart, gave me much disturbance in my work. My greatest fear was for mine eyes, which I should have surely lost, if I had not suddenly thought of a pair of spectacles in a private pocket, which had escaped the emperor's searchers. These I took out and fastened as strongly as I could upon my nose, and thus armed, went on boldly with my work, in spite of the enemy's arrows, many of which struck against the glasses of my spectacles but without any other effect than to shake them a little.

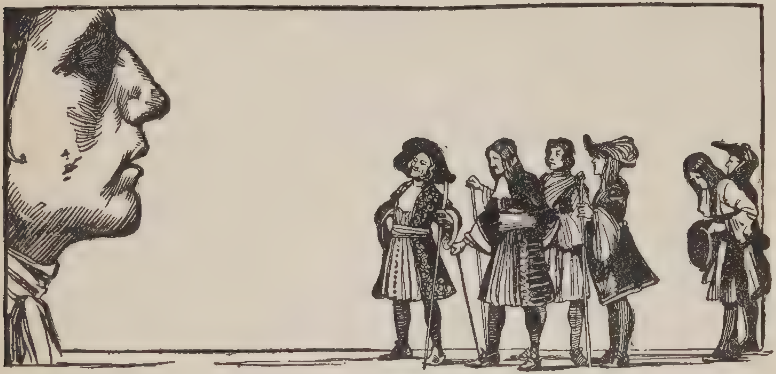
I had now fastened all the hooks, and, taking the knot in my hand, began to pull. But not a ship would stir, for they were all too fast held by their anchors; so that the boldest part of my enterprise remained. I therefore let go the cord, and leaving the hooks fixed to the ships, I resolutely cut with my knife the cables that fastened the anchors, receiving about two hundred shots in my face and hands. Then I took up the knotted end of the cables, to which my hooks were tied, and with the greatest ease drew fifty of the enemy's largest men-of-war after me.



The Blefuscudians, who had not the least imagination of what I intended, were at first confounded with astonishment. They had seen me cut the cables and thought my design was only to let the ships run adrift or fall foul of each other; but when they perceived the whole fleet moving in order, and saw me pulling at the end, they set up such a scream of grief and despair as it is almost impossible to describe. When I had got out of danger, I stopped awhile to pick out the arrows that stuck in my hands and face; and rubbed on some of the same ointment that was given me on my first arrival. I then took off my spectacles, and waiting about an hour, till the tide was a little fallen, I waded through the middle with my cargo and arrived safe at the royal port of Lilliput.

The emperor and his whole court stood on the shore, expecting the issue of this great adventure. They saw the ships move forward in a large half moon, but could not discern me, who was up to my breast in water. When I advanced to the middle of the channel, they were yet in pain because I was under water to my neck. The emperor concluded me to be drowned and that the enemy's fleet was approaching in a hostile manner; but he was soon eased of his fears; for the channel growing shallower every step I made, I came in a short time within hearing and holding up the end of the cable, by which the fleet was fastened, I cried in a loud voice, "Long live the King of Lilliput!" This great prince received me at my landing with all possible praise and created me a *nardac* on the spot, which is the highest title of honor among them.

His majesty desired that I would take some other opportunity of bringing all the rest of his enemy's ships into his ports. He seemed to think of nothing less than reducing the whole empire of Blefuscu into a province and governing it by a viceroy; of destroying the Big Endian exiles and compelling the people to break the smaller end of their eggs, by which he would remain the sole monarch of the whole world. But I endeavored to divert him from this design; and, when the matter was debated in council, the wisest men were of my opinion. However, his majesty could never forgive me for this bold declaration of mine.



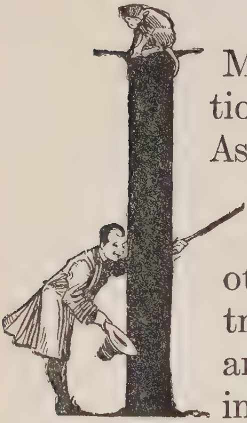
About three weeks after this exploit there arrived a solemn embassy from Blefuscu, with humble offers of a peace; which was soon concluded, upon conditions very advantageous to our emperor. There were six ambassadors with a train of about five hundred persons; and their entry was very magnificent, suitable to the grandeur of their master and the importance of their business. When their treaty was finished, wherein I did them several good offices by the credit I now had, or at least appeared to have, at court, their excellencies, who were privately told how much I had been their friend, made me a visit in form. They began with many compliments upon my valor and generosity, invited me to that kingdom in the emperor their master's name, and desired me to show them some proofs of my strength, of which they had heard so many wonders; wherein I readily obliged them.

When I had for some time entertained their excellencies, I desired they would do me the honor to present my most humble respects to the emperor their master, the renown of whose virtues had so justly filled the whole world with admiration and whose royal person I resolved to attend, before I returned to my own country. Accordingly, the next time I had the honor to see the emperor, I desired his permission to wait on the Blefuscudian monarch, which he was pleased to grant me, as I could perceive, in a very cold manner. I could not guess the reason, till I had a whisper from a certain person that Flimnap and Bolgolam had represented my intercourse with those ambassadors as a mark of treachery; from which I am sure my heart was wholly free.

The ambassadors spoke to me by an interpreter, the languages of both empires differing as much from each other as any two in Europe. Yet our emperor obliged them to speak to him in the Lilliputian tongue. This was possible, for in either country there are few persons of distinction or merchants or seamen, but what can hold conversation in both tongues. This I found some weeks after, when I went to pay my respects to the emperor of Blefuscu, which, in the midst of great misfortunes, through the malice of my enemies, proved a very happy adventure to me, as I shall relate in its proper place.

CHAPTER VI

CUSTOMS, LAWS, AND EDUCATION IN LILLIPUT



I MUST now give some general description of the manner of life in Lilliput. As the common size of the natives is somewhat under six inches high, so there is an exact proportion in all other animals, as well as plants and trees. For instance, the tallest horses and oxen are between four and five inches in height, the sheep an inch and a half, more or less; their geese about the bigness of a sparrow; and so the several gradations downward, till you come to the smallest, which, to my sight, were almost invisible. The eyes of the Lilliputians see with great exactness but at no great distance. And to show the sharpness of their sight toward objects that are near, I have been much pleased with observing a cook pulling a lark which was not as large as the common fly; and a young girl threading an invisible needle with invisible silk. Their tallest trees are about seven feet high; I mean some of those in the great royal park, the tops whereof I could but just reach with my fist clinched. The other vegetables are in the same proportion.

I shall say but little at present of their learning, which, for many ages, has flourished in all its branches among them; but their manner of writing is very peculiar, being neither from the left to the right, like the Europeans; nor from the right to the left, like the Arabians; nor from up to down, like the Chinese; but a slant, from one corner of the paper to the other.

They bury their dead with their heads directly downward, because they hold an opinion that in eleven thousand moons they are all to rise again; in which period the earth (which they conceive to be flat) will turn upside down and by this means they shall, at their resurrection, be found ready standing on their feet.

There are some laws and customs in this empire very peculiar. The first that I shall mention relates to informers. All crimes against the state are punished here with the utmost severity; but if the person accused makes his innocence plainly to appear upon his trial, the accuser is immediately put to death; and out of his goods or lands the innocent person is recompensed for the loss of his time, for the danger he underwent, for the hardship of his imprisonment, and for all the charges he has been at in making his defense. The emperor also confers on him some public mark of his favor and proclamation is made of his innocence through the whole city.

They look upon fraud as a greater crime than theft and therefore seldom fail to punish it with death; for they maintain that care and watchfulness may preserve a man's goods from thieves, but honesty has no fence against superior cunning; and since it is necessary that there should be buying and selling and dealing upon credit, where fraud is permitted or has no law to punish it, the honest dealer always gets the worst of it.

In Lilliput, whoever can bring proof that he has strictly observed the laws of his country for seventy-three moons has a claim to certain privileges, according to his quality and condition of life, with a sum of money out of a fund appropriated for that use. He likewise acquires the title of *snilpall*, or legal, which is added to his name.

In choosing persons for all employments, they have more regard to good morals than to great abilities; for they suppose truth, justice, temperance, and the like, to be in every man's power; the practice of which virtues, assisted by experience and a good intention, would qualify any man for the service of his country, except where a course of study is required.

Ingratitude is among them a capital crime; for they reason thus: that whoever makes ill return to his benefactor must needs be a common enemy to the rest of mankind, from whom he has received no obligation; and therefore such a man is not fit to live.

Their notions relating to the duties of parents and children differ extremely from ours. They think that the tenderness of parents toward their young proceeds from natural feeling. For this reason, they will never allow that a child is under any obligation to his father or his mother for bringing him into the world: which, considering the miseries of human life, was neither a benefit in itself nor intended so by his parents. Their opinion is that parents are the last of all others to be trusted with the education of their own children; and therefore they have in every town public nurseries, where all parents, except cottagers and laborers, are obliged to send their infants of both sexes to be reared and educated, when they come to the age of twenty moons.

These schools are of several kinds, suited to different qualities and both sexes. They have certain professors well skilled in preparing children for such a condition of life as befits the rank of their parents, and their own abilities and tastes.

The nurseries for boys of noble or high birth are provided with grave and learned professors. The clothes and food of the children are plain and simple. They are bred in the principles of honor, justice, courage, modesty, kindness, religion, and love of their country. They are always kept busy, except in the times of eating and sleeping, which are very short, and two hours for diversion, consisting of bodily exercises. They are dressed by men till four years of age and then are obliged to dress themselves. The women attendants, who are elderly, perform only the most menial offices. They are never suffered to converse with servants, but go together in smaller or greater numbers, to take their diversion, and always in the presence of a professor. Their parents are allowed to see them only twice a year and the visit lasts but an hour. They are allowed to kiss the child at meeting and parting; but a professor, who always stands by on those occasions, will not suffer them to whisper or use any fondling expressions or bring any presents of toys, sweetmeats, and the like.

The nurseries for children of ordinary gentlemen, merchants, traders, and handicraft are managed after the same manner; only those designed for trades are put out as apprentices at eleven years old: whereas persons of quality continue in their exercises till fifteen, which answers to twenty-one with us.

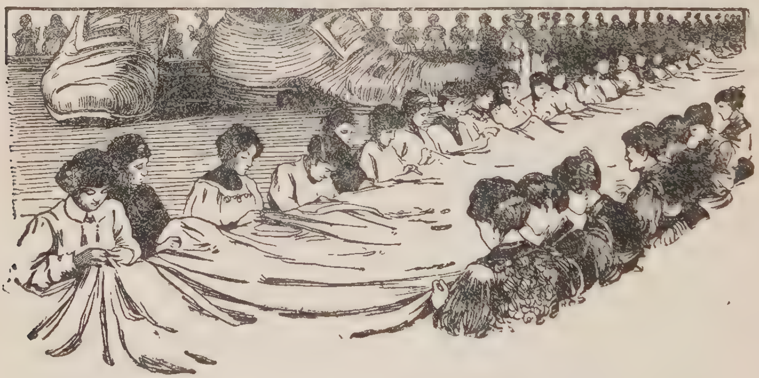
The young girls of quality are educated much like the males, only they are dressed by orderly servants of their own sex, but always in the presence of a professor, till they come to dress themselves, which is at five years old. And if it be found that these nurses ever presume to entertain the girls with frightful or foolish stories, they are publicly whipped thrice about the city, imprisoned for a year, and banished for life to the most desolate part of the country. Thus, the young ladies are as much ashamed of being cowards and fools as the men and despise all personal ornaments, beyond decency and cleanliness. I did not perceive any difference in their education made by their difference of sex, only that the exercises of the girls were not altogether so robust; and that some rules were given them relating to domestic life and a smaller amount of learning was given them. Their maxim is that among people of quality a wife should be always a reasonable and agreeable companion, because she cannot always be young. When the girls are twelve years old, which among them is the marriageable age, their parents or guardians take them home, with great expressions of gratitude to the professors and seldom without the tears of the young lady and her companions.

In the nurseries of the girls of the poorer sort, the children are instructed in all kinds of work proper for their sex and their position in life; those intended for apprentices are dismissed at seven years old; the rest are kept until eleven.

Each family which has a child in one of these nurseries pays an annual sum to the state in proportion to the amount of its wealth. The Lilliputians think nothing can be more unjust than for people to bring children into the world and leave the burden of supporting them on the public.

The cottagers and laborers keep their children at home, their business being only to cultivate the earth and therefore their education of little consequence to the public. The old and diseased among them are supported by hospitals; for begging is a trade unknown in this empire.

And here it may, perhaps, divert the curious reader to give some account of my servants and my manner of living in this country, during a residence of nine months and thirteen days. Having a head mechanically turned, and being likewise forced by necessity, I had made for myself a table and chair convenient enough out of the largest trees in the royal park. Two hundred sempstresses were employed to make me shirts and linen for my bed and table, all of the strongest and coarsest kind they could get; which, however, they were forced to quilt together in several folds, for the thickest was some degrees finer than lawn. Their linen is usually three inches wide and three feet make a piece. The sempstresses took my measure as I lay on the ground, one standing at my neck and another at my middle, with a strong cord extended, that each held by the end, while a third



measured the length of the cord with the rule of an inch long. Then they measured my right thumb and desired no more; for by figuring that twice round the thumb is once round the wrist and so on to the neck and waist, and by the help of my old shirt, which I displayed on the ground before them for a pattern, they fitted me exactly.

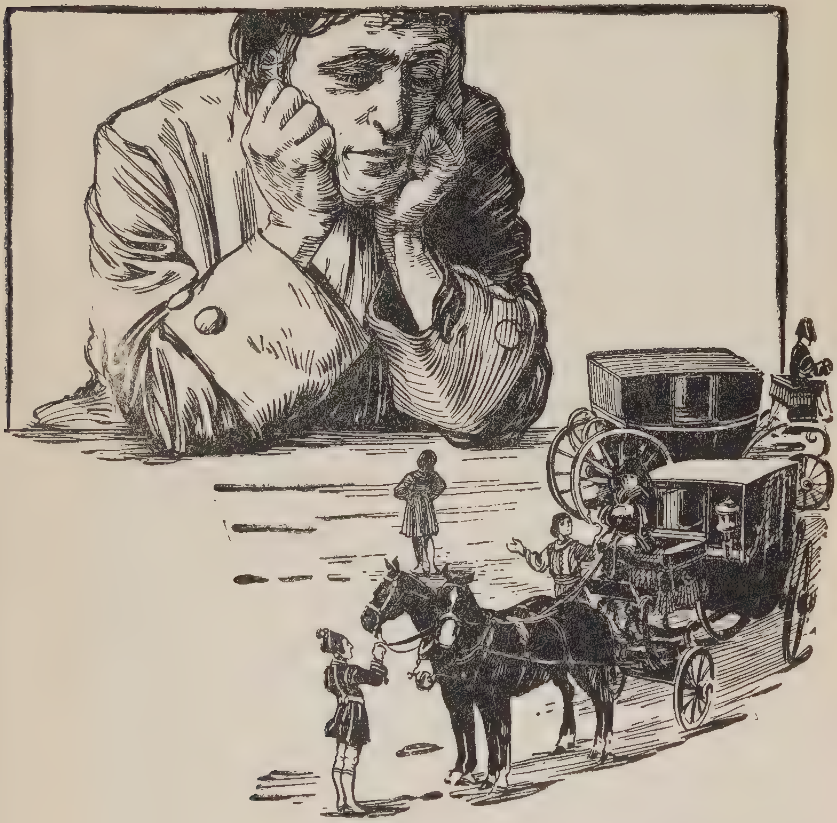
Three hundred tailors were employed in the same manner to make me clothes; but they had another contrivance for taking my measure. I kneeled down and they raised a ladder from the ground to my neck. Upon this ladder one of them mounted and let fall a plumb line from my collar to the floor, which just answered the length of my coat; but my waist and arms I measured myself. When my clothes were finished, which was done in my house (for the largest of theirs would not have been able to hold them), they looked like the patchwork made by the ladies in England, only that mine were all of a color.

I had three hundred cooks to dress my victuals, in little convenient huts built about my house, where they and their families lived and prepared me two dishes apiece. I took up twenty waiters in my hand and placed them on the table; a hundred more attended below on the ground, some with dishes of meat and some with barrels of wine and other liquors slung on their shoulders, all which the waiters above drew up, as I wanted, in a very ingenious manner by certain cords, as we draw a bucket up a well in

Europe. A dish of their meat was a good mouthful, and a barrel of their liquor a reasonable draught. I have had a sirloin so large that I have been forced to make three bites of it; but this is rare. My servants were astonished to see me eat it, bones and all, as in our country we do the leg of a lark. Their geese and turkeys I usually ate at a mouthful and I confess they far exceed ours. Of their smaller fowl, I could take up twenty or thirty at the end of my knife.

One day his imperial majesty, being informed of my way of living, desired that himself and his royal lady, with the young princes of the blood of both sexes, might have the happiness of dining with me. They came accordingly and I placed them in chairs of state upon my table, just over against me, with their guards about them. Flimnap, the lord high-treasurer, attended there likewise with his white staff; and I observed he often looked on me with a sour countenance, which I would not seem to regard, but ate more than usual, in honor to my dear country, as well as to fill the court with admiration. I have some private reasons to believe that this visit from his majesty gave Flimnap an opportunity of doing me ill offices to his master. He pointed out to the emperor the low condition of the treasury and that I had cost his majesty above a million and a half of *sprugs* (their greatest gold coin, about the bigness of a spangle); and, upon the whole, that it would be advisable in the emperor to take the first fair occasion of dismissing me.

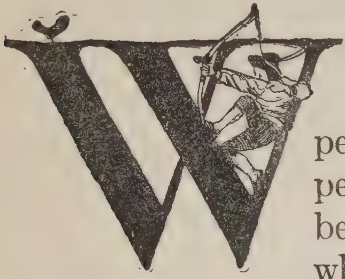
Very often ladies and gentlemen came in their coaches to call upon me. On those occasions, when



a servant had given me notice, my custom was to go immediately to the door; and, after paying my respects, to take up the coach and two horses very carefully in my hands (for, if there were six horses, the postilion always unharnessed four), and place them on a table, where I had fixed a movable rim quite round, of five inches high, to prevent accidents. I have often had four coaches and horses at once on my table, full of company, while I sat in my chair, leaning my face toward them; and when I was engaged with one set, the coachmen would gently drive the others round my table. I have passed many an afternoon very agreeably in these conversations.

CHAPTER VII

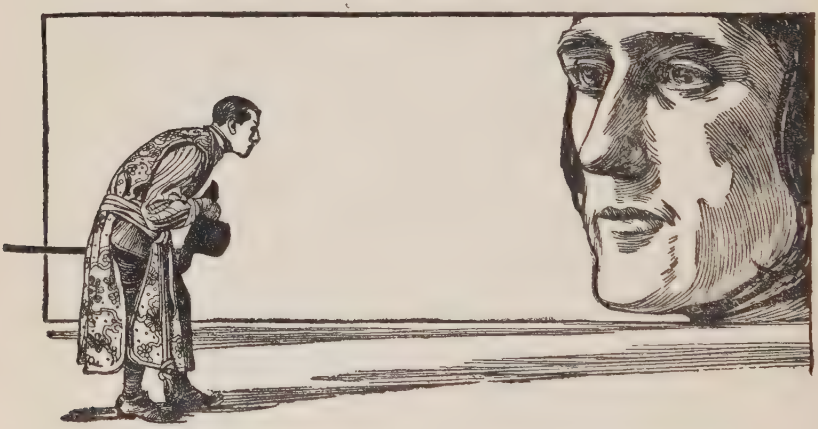
GULLIVER ESCAPES TO BLEFUSCU



WHILE I was just preparing to pay my attendance on the Emperor of Blefuscu, an important person at court (to whom I had been very helpful, at a time when he lay under the highest displeasure of his imperial majesty) came to my house very privately at night, in a sedan chair, and, without sending in his name, desired admittance. The chairmen were dismissed; I put the chair, with his lordship in it, into my coat pocket; and giving orders to a trusty servant to say I was gone to sleep, I fastened the door of my house, placed the chair on the table, according to my usual custom, and sat down by it. After the common salutations were over, I observed his lordship's countenance full of concern and inquired into the reason. He desired I would hear him with patience, in a matter that highly concerned my honor and my life. His speech was to the following effect:

"You are to know," said he, "that several committees of council have been lately called, in the most private manner, on your account; and it is but two days since his majesty came to a full resolution.

"You are aware that Skyresh Bolgolam has been your mortal enemy, almost ever since your arrival. His original reasons I know not; but his hatred is increased since your great success against Blefuscu, by which his glory as admiral is much obscured. This lord, with Flimnap, the high-treasurer, and some others, has prepared articles of impeachment against you, for treason and other capital crimes."*



This preface made me so impatient, being conscious of my own merits and innocence, that I was going to interrupt him; when he entreated me to be silent and thus proceeded:

"Out of gratitude for the favors you have done me, I procured information of the whole proceedings and a copy of the articles; wherein I venture my head for your service."

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* Gulliver's difficulties with the council are based on Lord Bolingbroke's troubles with the English cabinet and his flight to France.

"ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT AGAINST QUINBUS FLESTRIN, THE MAN-MOUNTAIN

"Article I. That the said Quinbus Flestrin, having brought the imperial fleet of Blefuscu into the royal port, and being afterward commanded by his imperial majesty to seize all the other ships of the said empire of Blefuscu and reduce that empire to a province, to be governed by a viceroy from hence, and to destroy and to put to death not only all the Big Endian exiles, but likewise all the people of that empire who would not immediately forsake the Big Endian heresy; he, the said Flestrin, like a false traitor against his most auspicious, serene, imperial majesty, did petition to be excused from the said service, upon pretense of unwillingness to force the consciences or destroy the liberties and lives of an innocent people.

"Article II. That, whereas certain ambassadors arrived from the court of Blefuscu, to sue for peace in his majesty's court; he, the said Flestrin, did, like a false traitor, aid, abet, comfort, and divert the said ambassadors, although he knew them to be servants to a prince who was lately an open enemy to his imperial majesty, and in an open war against his said majesty.

"Article III. That the said Quinbus Flestrin, contrary to the duty of a faithful subject, is now preparing to make a voyage to the court and empire of Blefuscu, for which he has received only verbal license from his imperial majesty; and, under color of the said license, does falsely and traitorously intend to take the said voyage, and thereby to aid, comfort, and abet the Emperor of Blefuscu, so lately an enemy and in open war with his imperial majesty aforesaid.

"There are some other articles; but these are the most important, of which I have read you an abstract.

"In the several debates upon this impeachment, it must be confessed that his majesty gave many marks of his great mildness; often urging the services you had done him and endeavoring to excuse your crimes. The treasurer and admiral insisted that you should be put to the most painful death, by setting fire to your house at night; and the general was to attend with twenty thousand men, armed with poisoned arrows, to shoot you on the face and hands. Some of your servants were to have private orders to strew a poisonous juice on your shirts and sheets, which would soon make you tear your own flesh and die in the utmost torture. The general came into the same opinion; so that, for a long time, there was a majority against you.

"Finally, Reldresal, principal secretary for private affairs, who always proved himself your true friend, was commanded by the emperor to deliver his opinion, which he accordingly did; and therein justified the good thoughts you have of him. He allowed your crimes to be great, but that there was still room for mercy, the most commendable virtue in a prince and for which his majesty was so justly celebrated. That if his majesty, in consideration of your services, would please to spare your life and only give orders to put out both your eyes, justice might in some measure be satisfied and all the world would applaud the mercy of the emperor, as well as the fair and generous proceedings of those who have the honor to be his counselors. That the loss of your eyes would be no hindrance to your bodily strength, by which you might still be useful to his majesty; that blindness is an addition to courage, by concealing dangers from us; that the fear you had for your eyes was the greatest difficulty in bringing over the enemy's fleet; and it would be sufficient for you to see by the eyes of the ministers, since the greatest princes do no more.

"This proposal was received with the utmost disapprobation by the whole board. Bolgolam, the admiral, could not preserve his temper; but, rising up in a fury, said he wondered how the secretary durst presume to give his opinion for preserving the life of a traitor, that the same strength which enabled you to bring over the enemy's fleet might serve, upon the first discontent, to carry it back; that he had good reasons to think you were a Big Endian in your heart; and, as treason begins in the heart before it appears in act, so he accused you as a traitor on that account and therefore insisted that you should be put to death.

"The treasurer was of the same opinion: he showed to what straits his majesty's revenue was reduced, by the charge of maintaining you; that the plan of putting out your eyes was so far from being a remedy against this evil, that it would probably increase it, as is shown by the common practice of blinding some kinds of fowls, after which they fed the faster and grew sooner fat; that his sacred majesty and the council, who are your judges, were, in their own conscience, fully convinced of your guilt, which was a sufficient argument to condemn you to death.

"But his imperial majesty, fully determined against capital punishment, was graciously pleased to say that since the council thought the loss of your eyes too easy a punishment, some other way might be inflicted afterward. And your friend the secretary, in regard to the expense of maintaining you, said that it would be easy to provide against that evil, by gradually lessening your establishment; by which, for want of sufficient food, you will grow weak and faint and lose your appetite and die in a few months.

"On these terms the whole affair was arranged. In three days your friend the secretary will be directed to come to your house and read before you the articles of impeachment; and then to signify the great favor of his majesty and council, whereby you are only condemned to the loss of your eyes, which his majesty does not question you will gratefully and humbly submit to; and twenty of his majesty's surgeons will attend, in order to see the operation well performed, by discharging very sharp-pointed arrows into the balls of your eyes, as you lie on the ground.

"I leave to your prudence what measures you will take; and to avoid suspicion, I must immediately return in as private a manner as I came."

His lordship did so; and I remained alone, under many doubts and perplexities of mind. Not being a courtier either by my birth or education, I was so ill a judge of things that I could not discover the mildness and favor of this sentence, but conceived it rather to be severe than gentle.

For a time I considered resistance; for while I had my liberty, I might easily with stones pelt the capital city to pieces. But I soon rejected that project with horror, by remembering the oath I had made to the emperor, the favors I received from him, and the high title of *nardac* he conferred upon me.

At last I fixed upon a resolution to which I owe the preserving of mine eyes and consequently of my liberty. Having his majesty's permission to visit the Emperor of Blefuscu, I took this opportunity, before the three days were elapsed, to send a letter to my friend the secretary, signifying my resolution of setting out that morning for Blefuscu; and, without waiting for an answer, I went to that side of the island where our fleet lay. I seized a large man-of-war and tied the cable to the prow. Lifting up the anchors, I stripped myself, put my clothes (together with my coverlet, which I carried under my arm) into the vessel, and drawing it after me, between wading and swimming arrived at the royal port of Blefuscu, where the people had long expected me.

They lent me two guides to direct me to the capital city, which is of the same name. I held them in my hands till I came within two hundred yards of the gate and desired them to signify my arrival to one of the secretaries and let him know that I there waited his majesty's commands. I had an answer in about an hour, that his majesty, attended by the royal family and great officers of the court, was coming out to receive me. I advanced a hundred yards. The emperor and his train alighted from their horses, the empress and ladies from their coaches, and I did not perceive they were in any fright or concern. I lay on the ground to kiss his majesty and the empress's hands. I told his majesty that I was come according to my promise and with the permission of the emperor, my master, to have the honor of seeing so mighty a monarch and to offer him any service in my power. I made no mention of my disgrace.

I shall not trouble the reader with the particular account of my reception at this court, which was suitable to the generosity of so great a prince*; nor of the difficulties I was in for want of a house and bed, being forced to lie on the ground, wrapped up in my coverlet.

* Louis XIV.

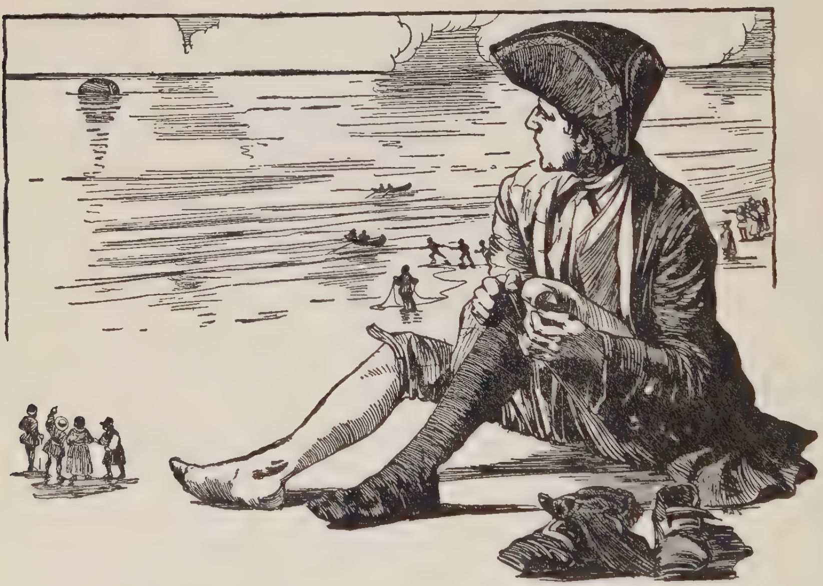
CHAPTER VIII

GULLIVER REACHES HIS NATIVE COUNTRY

THREE days after my arrival, walking out of curiosity to the northeast coast of the island, I observed, about half a league off in the sea, something that looked like a boat overturned. I pulled off my shoes and stockings, and wading two or three hundred yards, I found the object to approach nearer by force of the tide; and then plainly saw it to be a real boat, which I supposed might by some tempest have been driven from a ship.

I returned immediately toward the city and desired his imperial majesty to lend me twenty of the tallest vessels he had left, after the loss of his fleet, and three thousand seamen, under the command of his vice-admiral. This fleet sailed round, while I went back the shortest way to the coast, where I first discovered the boat. I found that the tide had driven it still nearer.

The seamen were all provided with cordage, which I had beforehand twisted to a sufficient strength. When the ships came up, I stripped myself and waded till I came within a hundred yards of the boat, after which I was forced to swim till I got up to it. The seamen threw me the end of the cord, which I fastened to a hole in the forepart of the boat and the other end to a man-of-war. But I found all my labor to little purpose; for, being out of my depth, I was not able to work. In this necessity I was forced to swim behind and push the boat forward as often as I could with one of my hands; and, the tide favoring me, I advanced so far that I could just hold up my chin and feel the ground.



I rested two or three minutes and then gave the boat another shove, and so on, till the sea was no higher than my armpits. The most laborious part being over, I took out my other cables, which were stowed in one of the ships, and fastened them first to the boat and then to nine of the vessels which attended me. The wind being favorable, the seamen towed and I shoved until we arrived within forty yards of the shore, and, waiting till the tide was out, I got dry to the boat. By the assistance of two thousand men, with ropes and engines, I made a shift to turn it on its bottom and found it was but little damaged.

At last I managed by the help of certain paddles, which cost me ten days making, to get my boat into the royal port of Blefuscu, where a mighty gathering of people appeared upon my arrival, full of wonder at the sight of so huge a vessel. I told the emperor that my good fortune had thrown this boat in my way, to carry me to some place whence I might return to my native country; and begged his majesty's orders for getting materials to fit it up, together with his permission to depart, which, after some kind protests, he was pleased to grant.

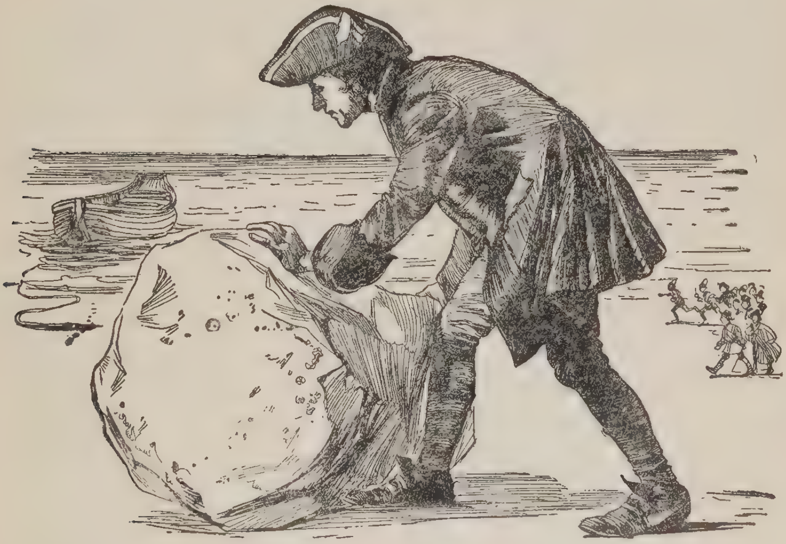
I did very much wonder, in all this time, not to have heard of any message relating to me from our emperor to the court of Blefuscu. But I was afterward given privately to understand that his imperial majesty, never imagining I had the least notice of his designs, believed I was only gone to Blefuscu in performance of my promise and would return in a few days. But he was at last in pain at my long absence; and, after consulting with the treasurer and the rest, a person of quality was dispatched with the copy of the articles against me.

This envoy had instructions to represent to the monarch of Blefuscu that I had fled from justice; and, if I did not return in two hours, I should be deprived of my title of *nardac* and declared a traitor. The envoy further added, "that, in order to maintain the peace and amity between both empires, his master expected that his brother of Blefuscu would give orders to have me sent back to Lilliput, bound hand and foot, to be punished as a traitor."

The emperor of Blefuscu, having taken three days to consult, returned an answer consisting of many civilities and excuses. He said that as for sending me bound, his brother knew it was impossible; that although I had deprived him of his fleet, yet he owed great obligations to me for many good offices I had done him in making the peace. That, however, both their majesties would soon be made easy; for I had found a huge vessel on the shore, able to carry me on the sea, which he had given orders to fit up, with my own assistance and direction; and he hoped that in a few weeks both empires would be freed from so insupportable a burden.

With this answer the envoy returned to Lilliput, and the monarch of Blefuscu related to me all that had passed; offering me at the same time his gracious protection if I would continue in his service.

From this I humbly begged to be excused. I told him, that since fortune, whether good or evil, had thrown a vessel in my way, I was resolved to venture myself on the ocean, rather than be an occasion of difference between two such mighty monarchs. Neither did I find the emperor at all displeased; and I discovered, by a certain accident, that he was very glad of my resolution and so were most of his ministers.



These reasons moved me to hasten my departure somewhat sooner than I intended; to which the court, impatient to have me gone, very readily contributed. Five hundred workmen were employed to make two sails to my boat, according to my directions, by quilting thirteen folds of their strongest linen together. I was at the pains of making ropes and cables, by twisting ten, twenty, or thirty of the thickest and strongest of theirs. A great stone that I happened to find, after a long search, by the seashore, served me for an anchor. I had the tallow of three hundred cows, for greasing my boat, and other uses. I cut down some of the largest timber trees for oars and masts. I was much assisted by his majesty's ship carpenters, who helped me in smoothing them, after I had done the rough work.

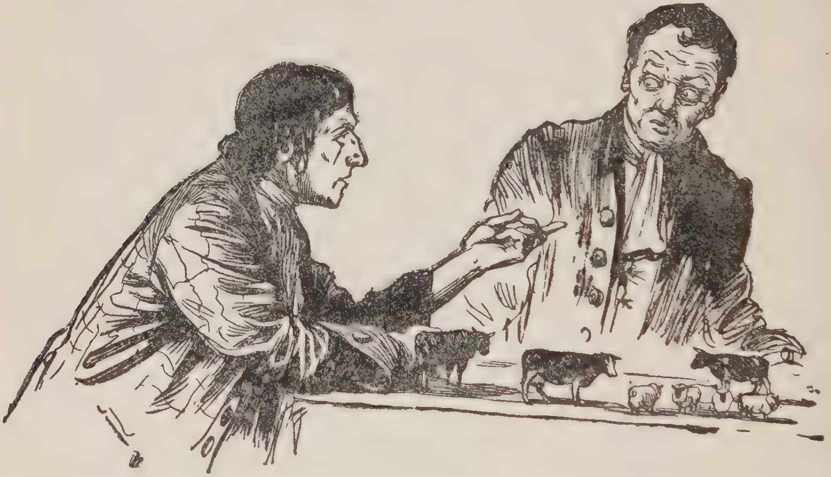
In about a month, when all was prepared, I sent to receive his majesty's commands and to take my leave. The emperor and royal family came out of the palace; I lay down on my face to kiss his hand, which he very graciously gave me; so did the empress and young princes of the blood. His majesty presented me with fifty purses of two hundred *sprugs* apiece, together with his picture at full length, which I put immediately into one of my gloves, to keep it from being hurt.

I stored the boat with the carcasses of a hundred oxen and three hundred sheep, with bread and drink and as much meat ready-dressed as four hundred cooks could provide. I took with me six cows and two bulls alive, with as many ewes and rams, intending to carry them into my own country and propagate the breed; and to feed them on board, I had a good bundle of hay and a bag of corn. I would gladly have taken a dozen of the natives, but this was a thing the emperor would by no means permit; and besides a diligent search into my pockets, his majesty engaged my honor not to carry away any of his subjects, although with their own consent and desire.

Having thus prepared all things as well as I was able, I set sail at six in the morning; and when I had gone about four leagues to the northward, at six in the evening I saw a small island, about half a league to the northwest. I advanced forward and cast anchor on the lee-side of the island, which seemed to be uninhabited. I then took some refreshment and went to my rest. I slept well for at least six hours. It was a clear night. I ate my breakfast before the sun was up; and heaving anchor, the wind being favorable, I steered the same course that I had done the day before, wherein I was directed by my pocket compass.

My intention was to reach, if possible, one of those islands which I had reason to believe lay to the northeast of Van Diemen's Land. I discovered nothing all that day; but upon the next, about three in the afternoon, when I had made twenty-four leagues from Blefuscu, I saw a sail steering to the southeast; my course was due east. I hailed her, but could get no answer; yet I found that I gained upon her, for the wind slackened. I made all the sails that I could and in half an hour she spied me, then hung out her flag and discharged a gun.

It is not easy to express the joy I was in, upon the unexpected hope of once more seeing my beloved country and the dear friends I left in it. The ship slackened her sails and I came up with her between five and six in the evening; my heart leaped within me to see her English colors. I put my cows and sheep into my coat pocket and got on board with all my little cargo of provisions.



The vessel was an English merchantman, returning from Japan by the North and South Seas; the captain, Mr. John Biddle, of Deptford, a very civil man and an excellent sailor. There were about fifty men in the ship; and here I met an old comrade of mine, one Peter Williams, who gave me a good character to the captain. This gentleman treated me with kindness and desired that I would let him know what place I came from last and whither I was bound. I did so in a few words, but he thought that I was raving and that the dangers I had undergone had disturbed my head. I took my black cattle and sheep out of my pocket, which, after great astonishment, clearly convinced him of my truth. I then showed him the gold given me by the emperor of Blefuscu, together with his majesty's picture at full length, and some other rarities of that country. I gave him two purses of two hundred *sprugs* each and promised, when we arrived in England, to make him a present of a cow and a sheep.

We arrived in England on the thirteenth of April, 1702. I had only one misfortune, that the rats on board carried away one of my sheep; I found her bones in a hole, picked clean from the flesh. The rest of my cattle I got safe ashore and set them a-grazing on a bowling green at Greenwich, where the fineness of the grass made them feed very heartily, though I had always feared the contrary. I could not possibly have preserved them in so long a voyage, if the captain had not allowed me some of his best biscuit, which, rubbed to powder and mingled with water, was their constant food. The short time I continued in England, I made a considerable profit by showing my cattle to many persons of quality and others; and before I began my second voyage, I sold them for six hundred pounds.

I stayed but two months with my wife and family, for my desire of seeing foreign countries would suffer me to continue no longer. I left fifteen hundred pounds with my wife and fixed her in a good house. My remaining stock I carried with me, part in money and part in goods, in hopes to improve my fortunes. My eldest uncle John had left me an estate in land of about thirty pounds a year and I had a long lease of the Black Bull Inn in Fetter Lane, which yielded me as much more; so that I was not in any danger of leaving my family upon the parish. My son Johnny, named so after his uncle, was at the grammar school, and a promising child. My daughter Betty (who is now well married, and has children) was then at her needlework. I took leave of my wife and boy and girl, with tears on both sides, and went on board the "Adventure," a merchant ship of three hundred tons, bound for India, Captain John Nicholas, of Liverpool, commander.

PART II

A VOYAGE TO BROBDINGNAG

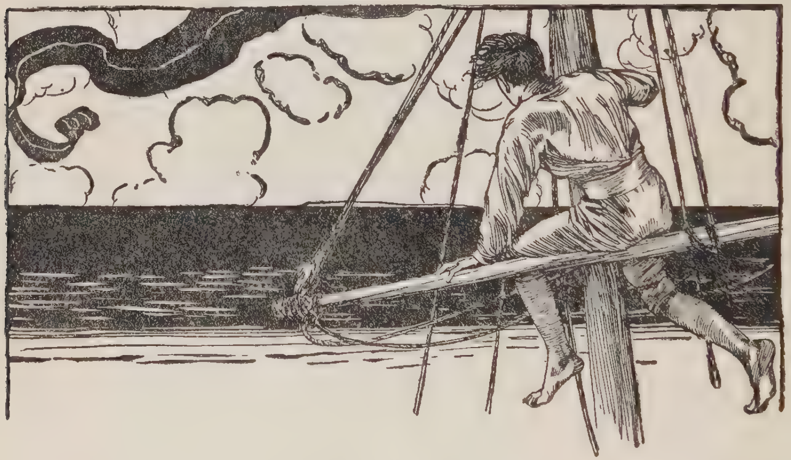
CHAPTER I

GULLIVER, LEFT BEHIND ON SHORE, IS CAPTURED BY A FARMER

THE “Adventure” set sail on the twentieth day of June, 1702, and the voyage went prosperously as far as the Cape of Good Hope. Landing there for fresh water, we discovered a leak; so we unshipped our goods and wintered there. We set sail again in March, having a good voyage until we were north of the island of Madagascar. There we encountered a very heavy wind and a fierce storm, which carried us five hundred leagues to the east, so that the oldest sailor on board could not tell in what part of the world we were. Our provisions held out well, our ship was stanch, and our crew all in good health; but we lay in the utmost distress for water.

On the sixteenth day of June, 1703, a boy on the topmast discovered land. On the seventeenth, we came in full view of a great island, or continent (for we knew not which). On the south side was a small neck of land jutting out into the sea and a creek too shallow to hold a ship of above one hundred tons. We cast anchor within a league of this creek and our captain sent a dozen of his men, well armed, in the long boat, with vessels for water, if any could be found. I desired his leave to go with them, that I might see the country and make what discoveries I could.

When we came to land, we saw no river nor spring nor any sign of inhabitants. Our men therefore wandered on the shore to find out some fresh water near the sea and I walked alone about a mile on the other side, where I observed the country all barren and rocky. I now began to be weary, and seeing nothing to entertain my curiosity, I returned gently down toward the creek; and the sea being full in my view, I saw our men already got into the boat and rowing for life to the ship. I was going to holla after them, although it had been to little purpose,



when I observed a huge creature walking after them in the sea, as fast as he could. He waded not much deeper than his knees and took great strides; but our men had the start of him half a league and the sea thereabouts being full of sharp-pointed rocks, the monster was not able to overtake the boat.

I dared not stay to see what would happen, but ran as fast as I could the way I first went and then climbed up a steep hill, which gave me some prospect of the country. I found it fully cultivated; but that which first surprised me was the length of the grass, which, in those grounds that seemed to be kept for hay, was about twenty feet high.

I fell into a high road, for so I took it to be, though it served to the inhabitants only as a footpath through a field of barley. Here I walked on for some time, but could see little on either side, it being now near harvest, and the corn rising at least forty feet. I was an hour walking to the end of this field, which was fenced in with a hedge of at least one hundred twenty feet high and the trees so lofty that I could make no computation of their altitude. There was a stile to pass from this field into the next. It had four steps and a stone to cross over when you came to the uppermost. It was impossible for me to climb this stile, because every step was six feet high and the upper stone about twenty.

I was endeavoring to find some gap in the hedge, when I discovered one of the inhabitants in the next field, advancing toward the stile, of the same size with him whom I saw in the sea pursuing our boat. He appeared as tall as an ordinary spire steeple and took about ten yards at every stride, as near as I could guess.

I was struck with the utmost fear and astonishment and ran to hide myself in the corn, whence I saw him at the top of the stile looking back into the next field on the right hand and heard him call in a voice many degrees louder than a speaking trumpet; but the noise was so high in the air that at first I certainly thought it was thunder. Seven monsters, like himself, came toward him, with reaping hooks in their hands, each hook about the largeness of six scythes. These people were not so well clad as the first, whose servants or laborers they seemed to be; for, upon some words he spoke, they went to reap the corn in the field where I lay.

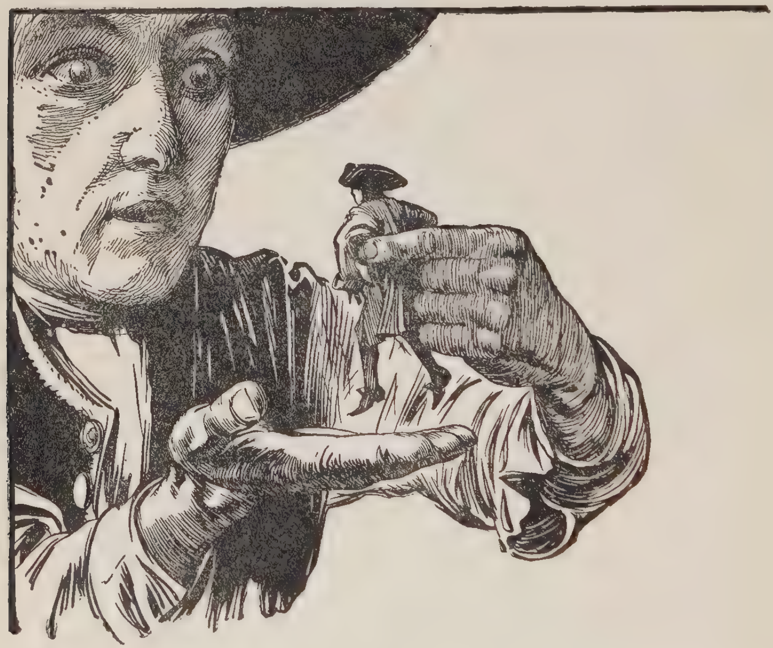
I kept from them at as great a distance as I could, but was forced to move with extreme difficulty, for the stalks of corn were sometimes not above a foot distant, so that I could hardly squeeze my body betwixt them. However, I made a shift to go forward, till I came to a part of the field where the corn had been laid by the rain and wind. Here it was impossible for me to advance a step; for the stalks were so interwoven that I could not creep through and the beards of the fallen ears so strong and pointed that they pierced through my clothes into my flesh.

At the same time I heard the reapers not above a hundred yards behind me.

Being quite dispirited with toil and wholly overcome by grief and despair, I lay down between two ridges and heartily wished I might there end my days. I bemoaned my desolate widow and fatherless children. I lamented my own folly and willfulness, in attempting a second voyage, against the advice of all my friends and relations. As human creatures are observed to be more savage and cruel in proportion to their bulk, what could I expect but to be a morsel in the mouth of the first among these enormous barbarians who should happen to seize me?

Lying there scared and dismayed I heard one of the reapers no more than ten yards away and I feared that with the next step I should be squashed to death under his foot, or cut in two with his reaping hook. And therefore, when he was again about to move, I screamed as loud as fear could make me; whereupon the huge creature trod short and looking round about under him for some time, at last espied me as I lay on the ground.

He considered awhile, with the caution of one who endeavors to lay hold on a small dangerous animal in such a manner that it should not be able either to scratch or bite him, as I myself have sometimes done with a weasel in England. At length he ventured to take me behind, by the middle, between his forefinger and thumb and brought me within three yards of his eyes, that he might behold my shape more perfectly. I guessed his meaning and my good fortune gave me so much presence of mind, that I resolved not to struggle in the least as he held me in the air above sixty feet from the ground, although he grievously pinched my sides, for fear I should slip through his fingers. All I ventured was to raise mine eyes toward the sun and place my hands together in a supplicating posture and to speak some words in a humble melancholy tone, suitable to the condition I then was in.



I feared every moment that he would dash me against the ground, as we usually do any little hateful animal which we have a mind to destroy. But he appeared pleased with my voice and gestures and began to look upon me as a curiosity, much wondering to hear me pronounce articulate words, although he could not understand them. In the meantime I was not able to forbear groaning and shedding tears and turning my head toward my sides; letting him know, as well as I could, how cruelly I was hurt by the pressure of his thumb and finger. He seemed to apprehend my meaning; for, lifting up the lappet of his coat, he put me gently into it and immediately ran along with me to his master, who was a farmer, and the same person I had first seen in the field.

The farmer having received such an account of me as his servant could give him, took a piece of a small straw, about the size of a walking staff, and therewith lifted up the lappets of my coat; which it seems he thought to be some kind of covering that nature had given me. He blew my hair aside, to take a better view of my face. He called his men about him and asked them, as I afterward learned, whether they had ever seen in the fields any little creature that resembled me. He then placed me softly on the ground upon all fours, but I got immediately up and walked slowly backward and forward, to let those people see I had no intent to run away.

They all sat down in a circle about me, the better to observe my motions. I pulled off my hat and made a low bow toward the farmer. I fell on my knees and lifted up my hands and eyes, and spoke several words as loud as I could; I took a purse of gold out of my pocket and humbly presented it to him. He received it on the palm of his hand, then applied it close to his eye to see what it was, and afterward turned it several times with the point of a pin, but could make nothing of it. Whereupon I made a sign that he should place his hand on the ground. I then took the purse, and opening it, poured all the gold into his palm. There were six Spanish pieces of four pistoles each, besides twenty or thirty smaller coins. I saw him wet the tip of his little finger upon his tongue and take up one of my largest pieces and then another; but he seemed to be wholly ignorant what they were. He made me a sign to put them again into my purse and the purse again into my pocket.

The farmer, by this time, was convinced that I must be a rational creature. He spoke often to me, but the sound of his voice pierced my ears like that of a water mill. I answered as loud as I could in several languages and he often laid his ear within two yards of me; but all in vain, for we could not understand each other. He then sent his servants to their work, and taking his handkerchief out of his pocket, he doubled and spread it on his left hand, which he placed flat on the ground with the palm upward, making me a sign to step into it, as I could easily do, for it was not above a foot in thickness. For fear of falling, I laid myself at full length upon the handkerchief, with the remainder of which he lapped me up to the head for further security, and in this manner carried me home to his house. There he called his wife and showed me to her; but she screamed and ran back, as women in England do at the sight of a toad or a spider. However, when she had a while seen my behavior, and how well I observed the signs that her husband made, she was soon reconciled and by degrees grew extremely tender of me.

It was about twelve at noon and a servant brought in dinner. It was only one substantial dish of meat (fit for the plain condition of a husbandman), in a dish of about four-and-twenty feet diameter. The company were the farmer and his wife, three children, and an old grandmother. When they were sat down, the farmer placed me at some distance from him on the table, which was thirty feet high from the floor. I was in a terrible fright and kept as far as I could from the edge, for fear of falling.

The wife minced a bit of meat, then crumbled some bread on a trencher, and placed it before me. I made her a low bow, took out my knife and fork, and fell to eat, which gave them exceeding delight. The mistress sent her maid for a small cup, which held about two gallons, and filled it with drink. I took up the vessel with much difficulty in both hands and in a most respectful manner drank to her ladyship's health, expressing the words as loud as I could in English, which made the company laugh so heartily that I was almost deafened with the noise. This liquor tasted like a small cider and was not unpleasant.

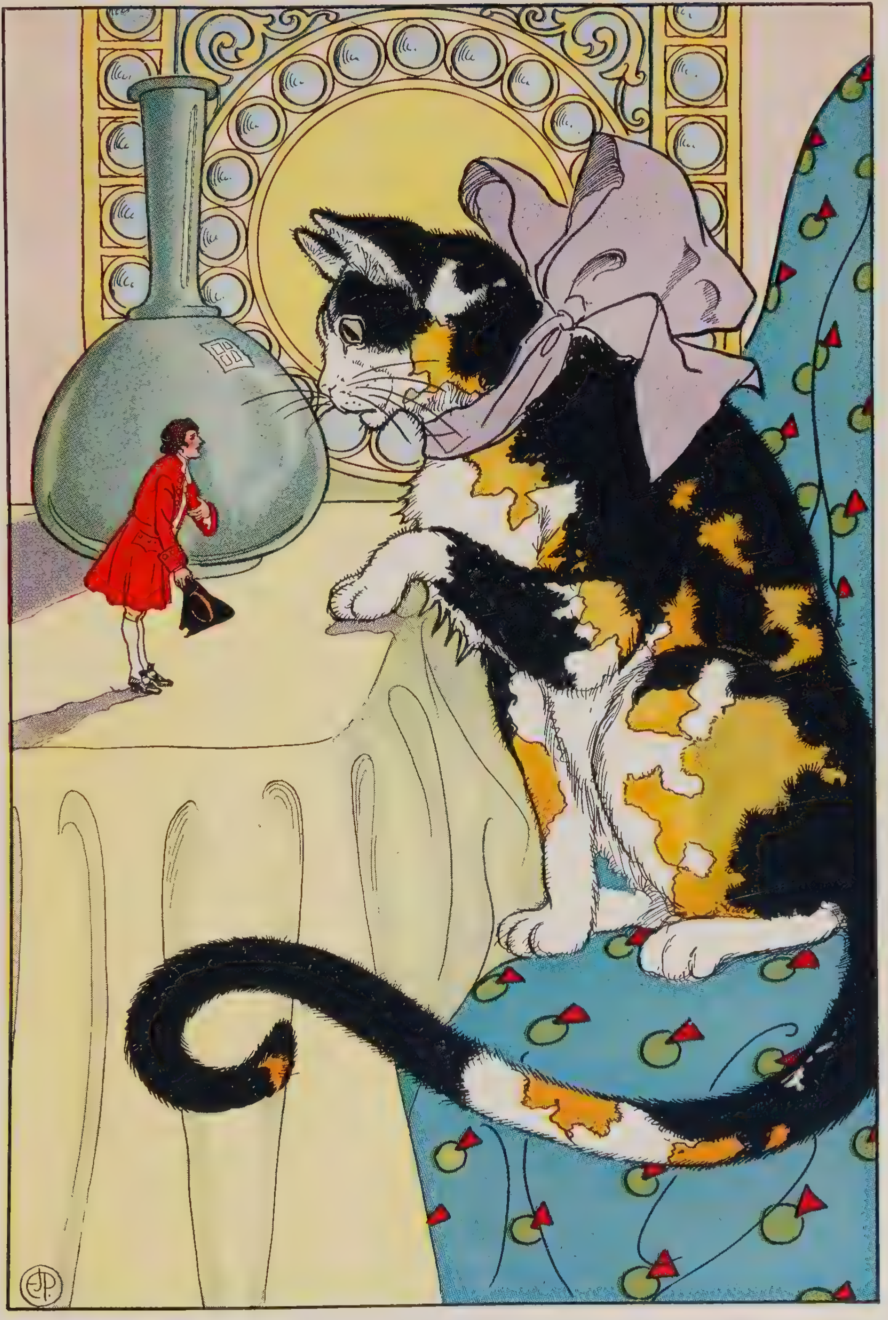
Then the master made me a sign to come to his trencher side; but as I walked on the table, I happened to stumble against a crust and fell flat on my face, but received no hurt. I got up immediately, and observing the good people to be in much concern, I took my hat (which I held under my arm out of good manners), and waving it over my head, made three huzzas, to show I had got no mischief by my fall. But as I advanced forward toward my master, his youngest son, who sat next to him, an arch boy of about ten years old, took me up by the legs and held me so high in the air that I trembled in every limb. His father snatched me from him and at the same time gave him such a box on the left ear as would have felled a European troop of horses to the earth, ordering him to be taken from the table. But being afraid the boy might owe me a spite, and well remembering how mischievous all children among us naturally are to sparrows, rabbits, young kittens, and puppy dogs, I fell on my knees, and, pointing to the boy, made my master to understand as well as I could that I desired his son might be pardoned. The father complied and the lad took his seat again, whereupon I went to him and kissed his hand, which my master took, and made him stroke me gently with it.

In the midst of dinner, my mistress's favorite cat leaped into her lap. I heard a noise behind me like that of a dozen stocking weavers at work; and turning my head, I found it proceeded from the purring of that animal, who seemed to be three times larger than an ox, as I computed by the view of her head and one of her paws, while her mistress was feeding and stroking her. The fierceness of this creature's countenance altogether upset me; though I stood at the farther end of the table, above fifty feet off; and though my mistress held her fast, for fear she might give a spring and seize me in her claws. But it happened there was no danger, for the cat took not the least notice of me, when my master placed me within three yards of her. And as flying or showing fear before a fierce animal is a certain way to make it pursue or attack you, so I resolved to show no manner of concern. I walked boldly five or six times before the very head of the cat and came within half a yard of her. Then she drew herself back, as if she were more afraid of me. I was less afraid of the dogs, whereof three or four came into the room, as it is usual in farmers' houses. One was a mastiff, equal in bulk to four elephants, and another a greyhound, somewhat taller than the mastiff, but not so large.

When dinner was almost done, the nurse came in with a child of a year old in her arms, who immediately spied me and began a squall that you might have heard from London Bridge to Chelsea, to get me for a plaything. The mother, out of pure indulgence, took me up and put me toward the child, who presently seized me by the middle and got my head into his mouth, where I roared so loud that the urchin was frighted and let me drop. I should have broke my neck if the mother had not held her apron under me. The nurse, to quiet her babe, made use of a rattle, which was a kind of hollow vessel, filled with great stones, and fastened by a cable to the child's waist; but all in vain; so that she was forced to apply the last remedy by giving it drink.

When dinner was done, my master went out to his laborers, and, as I could discover by his voice and gesture, gave his wife a strict charge to take care of me. I was very tired and disposed to sleep. My mistress put me on her own bed and covered me with a clean white handkerchief, but larger and coarser than the mainsail of a man-of-war.

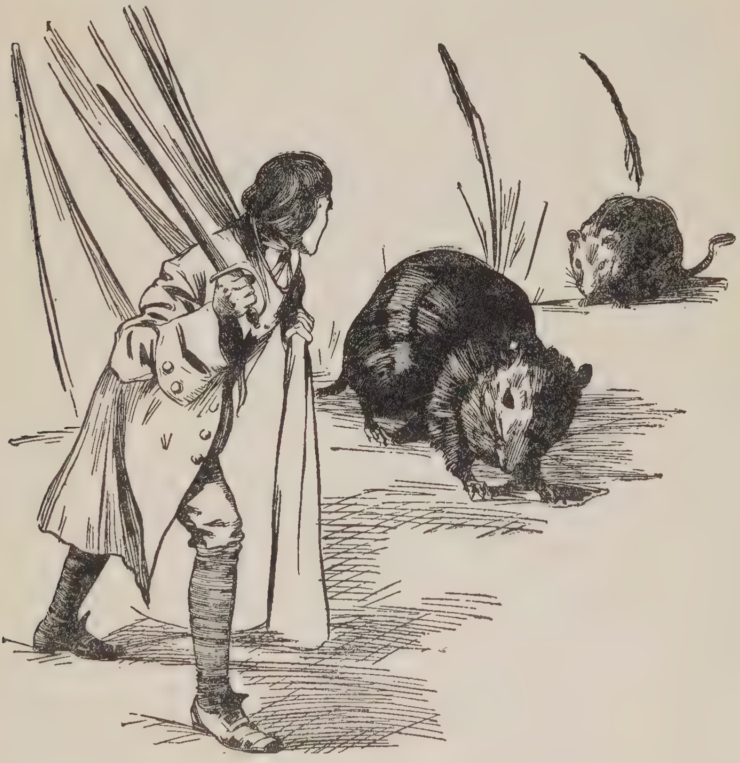
I slept about two hours, and dreamed that I was at home with my wife and children, which increased my sorrows when I awaked and found myself alone in a vast room, between two and three hundred feet wide and about two hundred high, lying in a bed twenty yards wide. My mistress was gone about her household affairs and had locked me in. The bed was eight yards from the floor. Although wishing to get down, I durst not presume to call; and if I



I walked boldly five or six times before the very head of the cat

had, it would have been in vain, with such a voice as mine, at so great a distance as from the room where I lay to the kitchen where the family kept.

While I was under these circumstances, two rats crept up the curtains and ran smelling backward and forward on my bed. One of them came up almost to my face, whereupon I rose in a fright and drew out my sword to defend myself. These horrible animals had the boldness to attack me on both sides and one of them held his forefeet at my collar; but



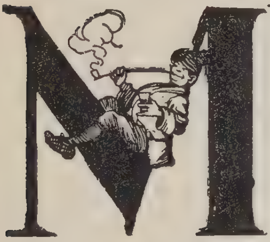
I had the good fortune to kill him before he could do me any mischief. He fell down at my feet; and the other, seeing the fate of his comrade, made his escape, but not without one good wound on the back, which made the blood run trickling from him.

After this exploit, I walked gently to and fro on the bed, to recover my breath and loss of spirits. These creatures were of the size of a large mastiff, but infinitely more nimble and fierce; so that if I had taken off my belt before I went to sleep, I must have been torn to pieces and devoured. I measured the tail of the dead rat and found it to be two yards long, wanting an inch.

Soon after, my mistress came into the room, who seeing me all bloody, ran and took me up in her hand. I pointed to the dead rat, smiling, and making other signs, to show that I was not hurt; whereat she was extremely rejoiced, calling the maid to take up the dead rat with a pair of tongs, and throw it out of the window. Then she set me on a table, where I showed her my sword all bloody, and wiping it on the lappet of my coat, returned it to the scabbard.

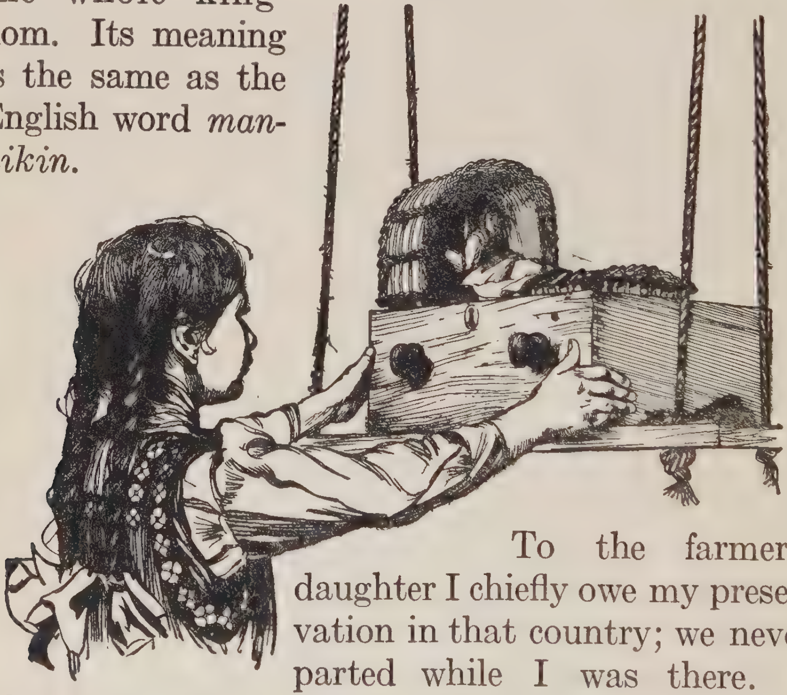
CHAPTER II

THE FARMER AND HIS DAUGHTER TAKE GULLIVER TO TOWN



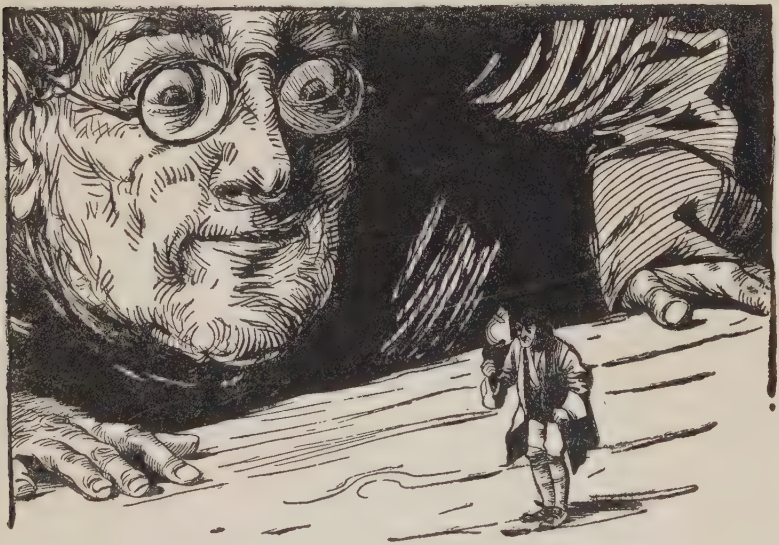
MY mistress had a daughter of nine years old, a child clever for her age, very dexterous at her needle and skilful in dressing her doll. Her mother and she contrived to fit up the doll's cradle for me against night. The cradle was put into a small drawer of a cabinet and the drawer placed upon a hanging shelf for fear of the rats. This was my bed all the time I stayed with those people, though made more convenient by degrees, as I began to learn their language and make my wants known.

This young girl was so handy that after I had once or twice pulled off my clothes before her, she was able to dress and undress me, though I never gave her that trouble when she would let me do either myself. She made me seven shirts and some other linen, of as fine cloth as could be got, which indeed was coarser than sackcloth; and these she constantly washed for me with her own hands. She was likewise my schoolmistress, to teach me the language; when I pointed to anything, she told me the name of it in her own tongue, so that in a few days I was able to call for whatever I had a mind to. She was very good-natured and not above forty feet high, being little for her age. She gave me the name of *Grildrig*, which the family took up, and afterwards the whole kingdom. Its meaning is the same as the English word *mannikin.*



To the farmer's daughter I chiefly owe my preservation in that country; we never parted while I was there. I called her my *glumdalclitch*, or little nurse; and should be guilty of great ingratitude if I omitted this honorable mention of her care and affection toward me.

It now began to be known and talked of in the neighborhood, that my master had found a strange animal in the field, about the bigness of a *splacnuck*, but exactly shaped in every part like a human creature, which it likewise imitated in all its actions. It seemed to speak in a little language of its own, had already learned several words of theirs, went erect upon two legs, was tame and gentle, would come when it was called, do whatever it was bid, had the finest limbs in the world, and a complexion fairer than a nobleman's daughter of three years old.



Another farmer, who lived hard by, and was a particular friend of my master, came on a visit on purpose to inquire into the truth of this story. I was immediately produced and placed upon a table, where I walked as I was commanded, drew my sword, put it up again, made my reverence to my master's guest, asked him in his own language how he did, and told him he was welcome, just as my little nurse had instructed me. This man, who was old and dim sighted, put on his spectacles to behold me better; at which I could not forbear laughing very heartily, for his eyes appeared like the full moon shining into a chamber at two windows. Our people, who discovered the cause of my mirth, bore me company in laughing, at which the old fellow was fool enough to be angry.

He had the character of a great miser; and, to my misfortune, he well deserved it, by the cursed advice he gave my master, to show me as a sight upon a market day in the next town, which was about two and twenty miles from our house. I guessed there was some mischief contriving, when I observed my master and his friend whispering long together, sometimes pointing at me; and my fears made me fancy that I overheard and understood some of their words. But the next morning Glumdalclitch, my little nurse, told me the whole matter, which she had cunningly picked out from her mother.

The poor girl laid me on her bosom and fell a weeping with shame and grief. She feared some mischief would happen to me from rude, vulgar folks, who might squeeze me to death or break one of my limbs by taking me in their hands. She had also observed how modest I was in my nature, how nicely I regarded my honor, and what a disgrace I should feel it to be exposed for money as a public spectacle to the meanest of the people. She said that her papa and mamma had promised that Grildrig should be hers; but now she found they meant to serve her as they did last year, when they pretended to give her a lamb and yet, as soon as it was fat, sold it to a butcher.

For my own part, I was less concerned than my nurse. I had a strong hope, which never left me, that I should one day recover my liberty; and as to being carried about for a show, I considered myself to be a perfect stranger in the country, and that such a misfortune could never be charged upon me as a reproach, if ever I should return to England; since the king of Great Britain himself, in my condition, must have undergone the same distress.

My master, following the advice of his friend, carried me in a box, the next market day, to the neighboring town and took along with him his little daughter, my nurse, upon a pillion behind him. The box was close on every side, with a little door for me to go in and out and a few gimlet holes to let in air. The girl had been so careful as to put the quilt of her doll's bed into it, for me to lie down on. However, I was terribly shaken in this journey, though it were but a half an hour; for the horse went about forty feet at every step and trotted so high that the agitation was equal to the rising and falling of a ship in a great storm, but much more frequent.

My master alighted at an inn which he used to frequent; and after consulting awhile with the inn-keeper, and making some necessary preparations, he hired the crier to give notice through the town of a strange creature to be seen at the sign of the Green Eagle.

I was placed upon a table in the largest room of the inn, which might be near three hundred feet square. My little nurse stood on a low stool close to the table, to take care of me and direct what I should do. My master, to avoid a crowd, would suffer only thirty people at a time to see me. I walked about on the table as the girl commanded: she asked me questions, as far as she knew my understanding of the language reached, and I answered them as loud as I could. I turned about several times to the company, paid my humble respects, said they were welcome, and used some other speeches I had been taught. I took up a thimble filled with liquor, which Glumdalclitch had given me for a cup, and drank their health. I drew out my hanger and flourished with it after the manner of fencers in England. My nurse gave me a part of a straw, which I exercised as a pike, having learned the art in my youth.

I was that day shown to twelve sets of company and as often forced to act over again the same fopperies, till I was half dead with weariness and vexation; for those who had seen me made such wonderful reports that the people were ready to break down the doors to come in. My master, for his own interest, would not suffer anyone to touch me except my nurse; and to prevent danger, benches were set round the table at such a distance as to put me out of everybody's reach. However, an unlucky schoolboy aimed a hazelnut directly at my head, which very narrowly missed me. It came with so much violence that it would have knocked out my brains, for it was almost as large as a small pumpion*; but I had the satisfaction to see the young rogue well beaten.

My master gave public notice that he would show me again the next market day; and in the meantime he prepared a more convenient vehicle for me, which he had reason enough to do; for I was so tired with my first journey and with entertaining company for eight hours together, that I could hardly stand upon my legs or speak a word. It was at least three days before I recovered my strength; and that I might have no rest at home, all the neighboring gentlemen from a hundred miles round, hearing of my fame, came to see me at my master's own house. There could not be fewer than thirty persons, with their wives and children; and my master demanded the rate of a full room whenever he showed me at home, although it were only to a single family; so that for some time I had but little ease every day of the week (except Wednesday, which is their Sabbath), although I was not carried to the town.

My master, finding how profitable I was likely to be, resolved to carry me to the largest cities in the kingdom. Having therefore provided himself with all things necessary for a long journey and settled his affairs at home, he took leave of his wife, and two months after my arrival, we set out for the metropolis, situated near the middle of that empire and three thousand miles' distance from our house. My master made his daughter, Glumdalclitch, ride behind him. She carried me on her lap, in a box tied about her waist. The girl had lined it on all sides with the softest cloth she could get, well quilted underneath, furnished it with her baby's bed, provided me with linen and other necessaries, and made everything as convenient as she could. We had no other company but a boy of the house, who rode after us with the luggage.

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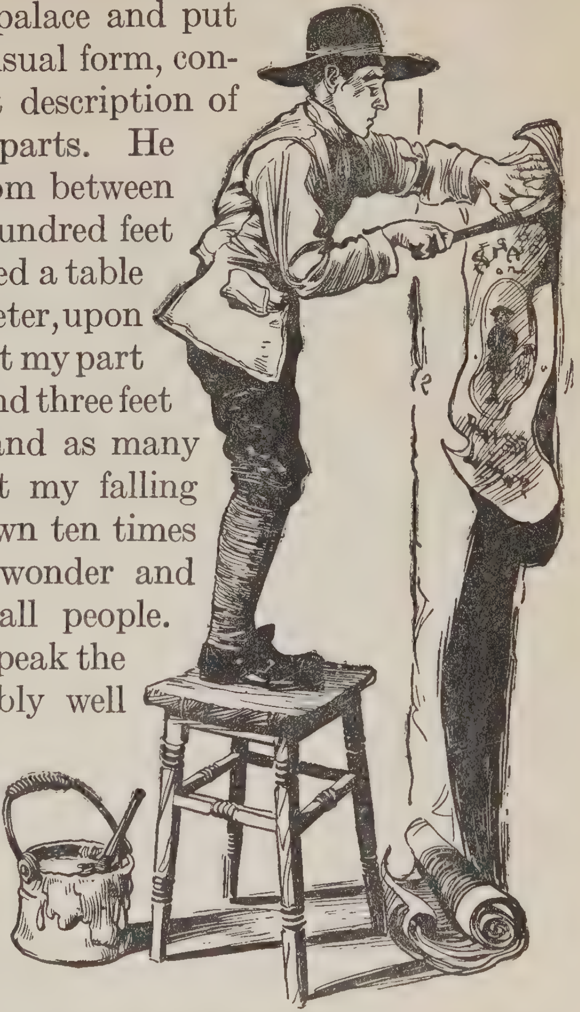
* A pumpkin.

My master intended to show me in all the towns by the way and to step out of the road to any village or person of quality's house, where he might expect custom. We made easy journeys, of not above seven or eight score miles a day; for Glumdalclitch, on purpose to spare me, complained she was tired with the trotting of the horse. She often took me out of my box, at my own desire, to give me air and show me the country, but always held me fast by a leading string. We passed over five or six rivers, many degrees broader and deeper than the Nile or the Ganges; and there was hardly a rivulet so small as the Thames at London Bridge. We were ten weeks in our journey and I was shown in eighteen large towns, besides many villages and private families.

On the twenty-sixth day of October we arrived at the metropolis, called in their language *Lorbrul-*

grud or Pride of the Universe. My master took a lodging in the principal street of the city, not far from the royal palace and put out bills in the usual form, containing an exact description of my person and parts. He hired a large room between three and four hundred feet wide. He provided a table sixty feet in diameter, upon which I was to act my part and fenced it round three feet from the edge and as many high, to prevent my falling over. I was shown ten times a day, to the wonder and satisfaction of all people.



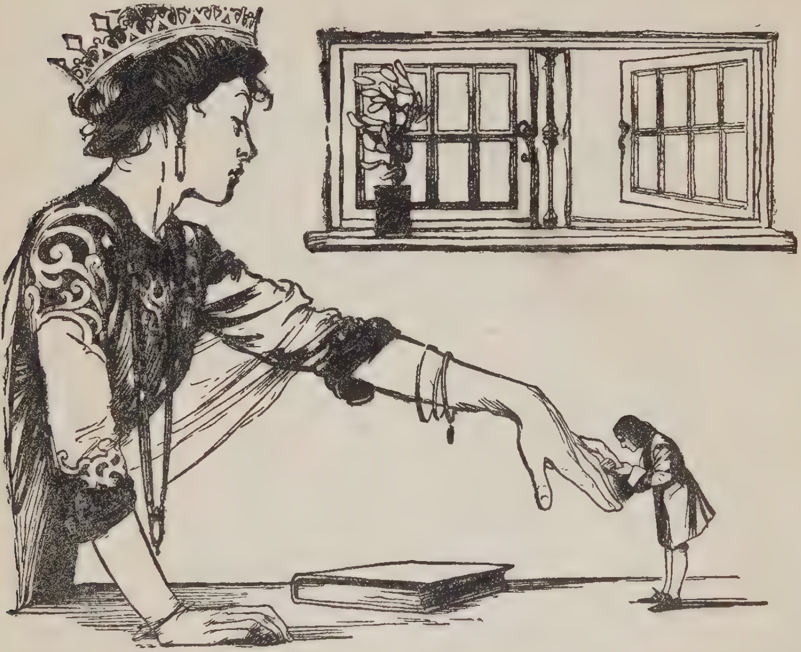
I could now speak the language tolerably well and perfectly understood every word that was spoken to me. Besides, I had learned their alphabet and could make a shift to explain a sentence here and there; for Glumdalclitch had been my instructor while we were at home and at leisure hours during our journey.

CHAPTER III

GULLIVER AT THE ROYAL COURT

THE frequent labors that I underwent every day made, in a few weeks, a very considerable change in my health. I had quite lost my appetite and was almost reduced to a skeleton. The farmer observing it, and concluding that I must soon die, resolved to make as much money out of me as he could. While he was thus reasoning and resolving with himself, a gentleman came from court, commanding my master to carry me immediately thither, for the diversion of the queen and her ladies. Some of the latter had already been to see me and reported strange things of my beauty, behavior, and good sense.

Her majesty, and those who attended her, were beyond measure delighted with my demeanor. I fell on my knees and begged the honor of kissing her imperial foot; but this gracious princess held out her little finger toward me, after I was set on the table, which I embraced in both my arms and put the tip of it with the utmost respect to my lip. She asked me some general questions about my country and my travels, which I answered as distinctly and in as few words as I could. She asked whether I could be content to live at court. I bowed down to the board of the table and humbly answered that I was my master's slave; but if I were at my own disposal,



I should be proud to devote my life to her majesty's service.

She then asked my master whether he was willing to sell me at a good price. He, who thought that I could not live a month, was ready enough to part with me, and demanded a thousand pieces of gold, which were ordered him on the spot. I then said to the queen, since I was now her majesty's most humble servant, I must beg the favor that Glumdalclitch, who had always tended me with so much care and kindness and knew how to do it so well, might be admitted into the service and continue to be my nurse and instructor.

Her majesty agreed to my petition and easily got the farmer's consent, who was glad enough to have his daughter preferred at court. The poor girl herself was not able to hide her joy. My late master withdrew, bidding me farewell, and saying he had left me in a good service; to which I replied not a word, only making him a slight bow.

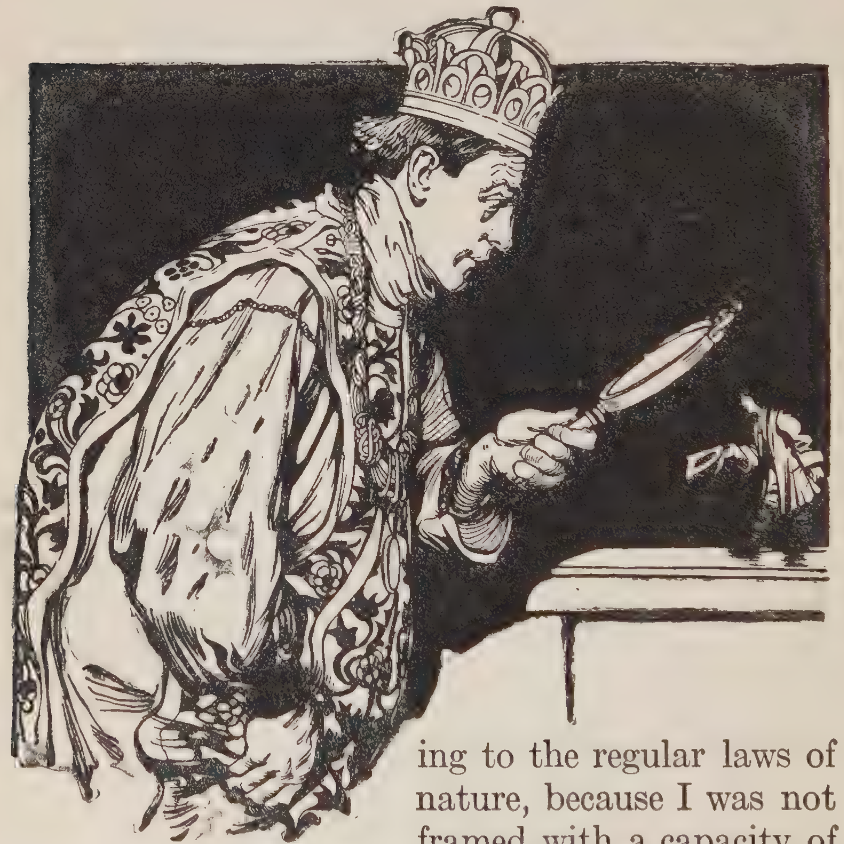
The queen observed my coldness; and when the farmer was gone out of the apartment, asked me the reason. I made bold to tell her majesty that I owed no other debt to my late master, than his not dashing out the brains of a poor harmless creature, found by chance in his fields, which debt was amply repaid by the gain he had made in showing me through half the kingdom and the price he had now sold me for. The life that I had since led was laborious enough to kill an animal of ten times my strength. My health was much impaired by the continual drudgery of entertaining the rabble every hour of the day; and if my master had not thought my life in danger, her majesty would not have got so cheap a bargain. But I was now out of all fear of being ill-treated, under the protection of so great and good an empress, the ornament of nature, the darling of the world, the delight of her subjects. I already found my spirits revive, by the influence of her presence.

This was the sum of my speech, delivered with great hesitation. The latter part was altogether framed in the style peculiar to that people, whereof I learned some phrases from Glumdalclitch, while she was carrying me to court.

The queen, giving great allowance for my defectiveness in speaking, was, however, surprised at so much wit and good sense in so tiny an animal. She took me in her own hand and carried me to the king, who was then retired to his private room. She set me gently on my feet upon the table and commanded me to give his majesty an account of myself, which I did in a very few words. Glumdalclitch, who attended at the door and could not endure I should be out of her sight, being admitted, confirmed all that had passed from my arrival at her father's house.

The king, although he is as learned a person as any in his dominions, having been educated in the study of philosophy, and particularly mathematics, yet when he observed my shape exactly and saw me walk erect, before I began to speak, thought I might be a piece of clockwork contrived by some clever and ingenious artist. But when he heard my voice, and found what I said to be sensible, he could not conceal his astonishment.

His majesty sent for three great scholars, who, after they had awhile examined my shape with much nicety, were of different opinions concerning me. They all agreed that I could not be produced according to the regular laws of nature, because I was not framed with a capacity of preserving my life, either by swiftness or climbing of trees or digging holes in the earth. They observed by my teeth, which they viewed with great exactness, that I was a meat-eating animal; yet



most quadrupeds being an overmatch for me, and field mice, with some others, too nimble, they could not imagine how I was able to support myself, unless I fed upon snails or insects, which they offered to prove that I could not possibly do. They would not allow me to be a dwarf, because my littleness was beyond all degrees of comparison; for the queen's favorite dwarf, the smallest ever known in the kingdom, was nearly thirty feet high. After much debate, they concluded that I was only a freak of nature.

After they reached this conclusion, I entreated to be heard a word or two. I assured his majesty that I came from a country which abounded with several millions of both sexes of my own stature; where the animals, trees, and houses were all in proportion, and where, by consequence, I might be as able to defend myself and to find sustenance, as any of his majesty's subjects could do here. To this they only replied by a smile of contempt, saying that the farmer had instructed me very well in my lesson; for they thought he had taught me a set of words, to make me sell at a better price.

The king,* who had a better understanding than his learned men, dismissed them, and sent for the farmer, who by good fortune was not yet gone out of town. Having examined him, his majesty began to think that what we told him might possibly be true. He desired the queen to order that a particular care should be taken of me; and was of opinion that Glumdalclitch should still continue in her office of tending me, because he observed we had a great affection for each other. A convenient apartment was provided for her at court; she had a sort of governess appointed to take care of her education, a maid to dress her, and two other servants; but she herself had the entire care of me.

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* The king is a portrait of Swift's ideal monarch.

The queen commanded her own cabinetmaker to contrive a box, that might serve me as a bedchamber, after the model that Glumdalclitch and I should agree upon. This man was a most ingenious artist, and according to my directions, in three weeks, finished for me a wooden chamber of sixteen feet square and twelve high, with sash windows, a door, and two closets, like a London bedchamber. The board that made the ceiling was to be lifted up and down by two hinges, so as to put in a bed ready furnished by her majesty's upholsterer. Glumdalclitch took it out every day to air, made it with her own hands, and letting it down at night, locked up the roof over me. A nice workman, who was famous for little curiosities, undertook to make me two chairs, with backs and frames, of a substance not unlike ivory, and two tables, with a cabinet to put my things in.

The room was quilted on all sides, as well as the floor and the ceiling, to prevent any accident from the carelessness of those who carried me and to break the force of a jolt, when I went in a coach. I desired a lock for my door, to prevent rats and mice from coming in. The smith, after several attempts, made the smallest that ever was seen among them, for I have known a larger at the gate of a gentleman's house in England. I kept the key in a pocket of my own, fearing that Glumdalclitch might lose it.

The queen likewise ordered the thinnest silks that could be gotten, to make me clothes, not much thicker than an English blanket. They were after the fashion of the kingdom, partly resembling the Persian and partly the Chinese, and are a very grave and decent habit.

The queen became so fond of my company that she could not dine without me. I had a table placed upon the same at which her majesty ate, just at her elbow, and a chair to sit on. Glumdalclitch stood on a stool on the floor, near my table, to assist and take care of me. I had an entire set of silver dishes and plates and other necessaries, which, in proportion to those of the queen, were not much bigger than what I have seen in a London toy shop, for the furniture of a doll's house. These my little nurse kept in her pocket in a silver box and gave me at meals as I wanted them, always cleaning them herself.

No person dined with the queen but the two princesses royal, the elder sixteen years old and the younger at that time thirteen and a month. Her majesty used to put a bit of meat upon one of my dishes, out of which I carved for myself. The queen took up, at one mouthful, as much as a dozen English farmers could eat at a meal. She would craunch the wing of a lark, bones and all, between her teeth, although it were nine times as large as that of a full-grown turkey; and put a bit of bread in her mouth, as big as two twelvepenny loaves. She drank out of a golden cup, above a hogshead at a draught. Her knives were twice as long as a scythe, set straight upon the handle. The spoons, forks, and other instruments were all in the same proportion. I remember when Glumdalclitch carried me, out of curiosity, to see some of the tables at court, where ten or a dozen of those enormous knives and forks were lifted up together, I thought I had never till then beheld so terrible a sight.

It is the custom that every Wednesday (which, as I have observed, is their Sabbath), the king and queen, with the royal, dine together in the apartment of his majesty, to whom I was now become a great favorite. At these times my little chair and table were placed at his left hand, before one of the salt-cellars. This prince took pleasure in asking me about the manners, religion, laws, government, and learning of Europe. I gave him the best account I was able and his judgment was so clear that he made very wise comments upon all that I said.

Once, after I had talked a little too freely of my own beloved country, of our trade and wars by sea and land, of our religious and political differences, he took me up in his right hand, and, stroking me gently with the other, after a hearty fit of laughing, asked me whether I was a Whig or a Tory. Then turning to his first minister, who waited behind him with a white staff nearly as tall as the mainmast of the Royal Sovereign, he observed how poor a thing was human grandeur, which could be mimicked by such tiny insects as I. "And yet," says he, "I dare say these creatures have their titles of honor; they contrive little nests and burrows, that they call houses and cities; they love, they fight, they dispute, they cheat, they betray." And thus he continued, while my color came and went several times with indignation to hear our noble country—the mistress of arts and arms; the scourge of France; the arbitress of Europe; the seat of virtue, piety, honor, and truth; the pride and envy of the world—so contemptuously treated.

However, after several months, I became so accustomed to the sight of this people that my horror at their bulk was quite worn off. If I had then beheld a company of English lords and ladies in their finery and birthday clothes, acting their several parts in the most courtly manner of strutting and bowing and prating; to say the truth, I should have been strongly tempted to laugh as much at them as the king and his grandees did at me. Neither, indeed, could I forbear smiling at myself, when the queen used to place me upon her hand toward a looking-glass, by which both our persons appeared before me in full view together. There could be nothing more ridiculous than the comparison; so that I really began to imagine myself dwindled many degrees below my usual size.

Nothing angered and mortified me so much as the queen's dwarf, who, being of the lowest stature that was ever in that country, became so insolent at seeing a creature so much beneath him that he would always affect to swagger and look big as he passed by me in the queen's antechamber, while I was standing on some table talking with the lords or ladies of the court. He seldom failed of a smart word or two upon my littleness; against which I could only revenge myself by calling him brother, challenging him to wrestle, and using such repartees as are usually in the mouths of court pages.

One day at dinner, this malicious little cub was so nettled with something I had said to him, that, raising himself upon the frame of her majesty's chair, he took me up by the middle, let me fall into a large silver bowl of cream, and then ran away as fast as he could. I fell in over head and ears and if I had not been a good swimmer it might have gone hard with me. But my little nurse soon ran to my relief and took me out, after I had swallowed above a quart of cream. I was put to bed; however, I received no other damage than the loss of a suit of clothes, which were utterly spoiled. The dwarf was soundly whipped and, as a further punishment, forced to drink up the bowl of cream into which he had thrown me. Neither was he ever restored to favor.

He had before served me a trick, which set the queen a-laughing, although at the same time she was heartily vexed and would have immediately dismissed him if I had not been so generous as to intercede. Her majesty had taken a marrowbone upon her plate, and, after knocking out the marrow, placed the bone again on the dish erect, as it stood before. The dwarf, watching his opportunity when Glumdalclitch was gone to the sideboard, took me up in both hands and, squeezing my legs together, wedged them into the marrowbone above my waist, where I stuck for some time and made a very ridiculous figure. I believe it was near a minute before anyone knew what was become of me; for I thought it below me to cry out.

I was frequently rallied by the queen upon account of my fearfulness; and she used to ask me whether the people of my country were as great cowards as myself! The occasion was this. The kingdom is much pestered with flies in the summer; and these odious insects, each of them as big as a lark, hardly gave me any rest while I sat at dinner, with their continual humming and buzzing about mine ears. They would sometimes alight upon my victuals and sometimes they would fix upon my nose or forehead and sting me to the quick. I had much ado to defend myself against these detestable animals and could not forbear starting when they came on my face. It was the common practice of the dwarf to catch a number of these insects in his hand, as schoolboys do among us, and let them out suddenly under my nose, on purpose to frighten me and divert the queen.

I remember, one morning, when Glumdalclitch had set me in a box upon a window, as she usually did in fair days, to give me air after I had lifted up one of my sashes and sat down at my table to eat a piece of sweet cake for my breakfast, above twenty wasps, allured by the smell, came flying into the room, humming louder than the drones of as many bagpipes. Some of them seized my cake and carried it piecemeal away; others flew about my head and face, confounding me with their noise and putting me in the utmost terror of their stings. However, I had the courage to rise and draw my sword and attack them in the air. I dispatched four of them, but the rest got away, and I presently shut my window.

These insects are as large as partridges; I took out their stings and found them an inch and a half long and as sharp as needles. I carefully preserved them all; and having since shown them, with other curiosities, in several parts of Europe, upon my return to England, I gave three to Gresham College, and kept the fourth for myself.

CHAPTER IV

GULLIVER MEETS ADVENTURES

THE journeys with Glumdalclitch having given me some knowledge of the country, I now intend to give the reader a short description of it, as far as I traveled, which was not above two thousand miles round Lorbrulgrud, the metropolis. The country is about six thousand miles in length, and from three to five in breadth. I cannot but conclude that our geographers of Europe are in a great error, by supposing nothing but sea between Japan and California. They ought to correct their maps and charts, by joining this vast tract of land to the northwest parts of America.

The kingdom is a peninsula, terminated to the northeast by a ridge of mountains thirty miles high, which are altogether impassable, by reason of the volcanoes upon the tops; neither do the most learned know what sort of mortals inhabit beyond those mountains, or whether they be inhabited at all. On the three other sides the kingdom is bounded by the ocean.

There is not one seaport in the whole kingdom; and those parts of the coasts into which the rivers issue are so full of pointed rocks and the sea generally so rough, that there is no venturing with the smallest of their boats; so that these people are wholly excluded from any commerce with the rest of the world. But the large rivers are full of vessels and abound with excellent fish. They seldom get any from the sea, because the sea fish are of the same size with those in Europe and consequently not worth catching; whereby it is clear that nature, in the production of plants and animals of so extraordinary a bulk, is wholly confined to this continent. However, now and then they take a whale that happens to be dashed against the rocks, which the common people feed on heartily. These whales I have known so large that a man could hardly carry one upon his shoulders; and sometimes, for curiosity, they are brought in hampers to Lorbrulgrud. I saw one of them in a dish at the king's table, which passed for a rarity.

The country is well inhabited, for it contains fifty-one cities, nearly a hundred walled towns, and a great number of villages. Lorbrulgrud stands almost equal parts, on each side of the river that passes through. It contains about eighty thousand houses and about six hundred thousand inhabitants. It is in length three *glomglungs* (which make about fifty-four English miles), and two and a half in breadth.

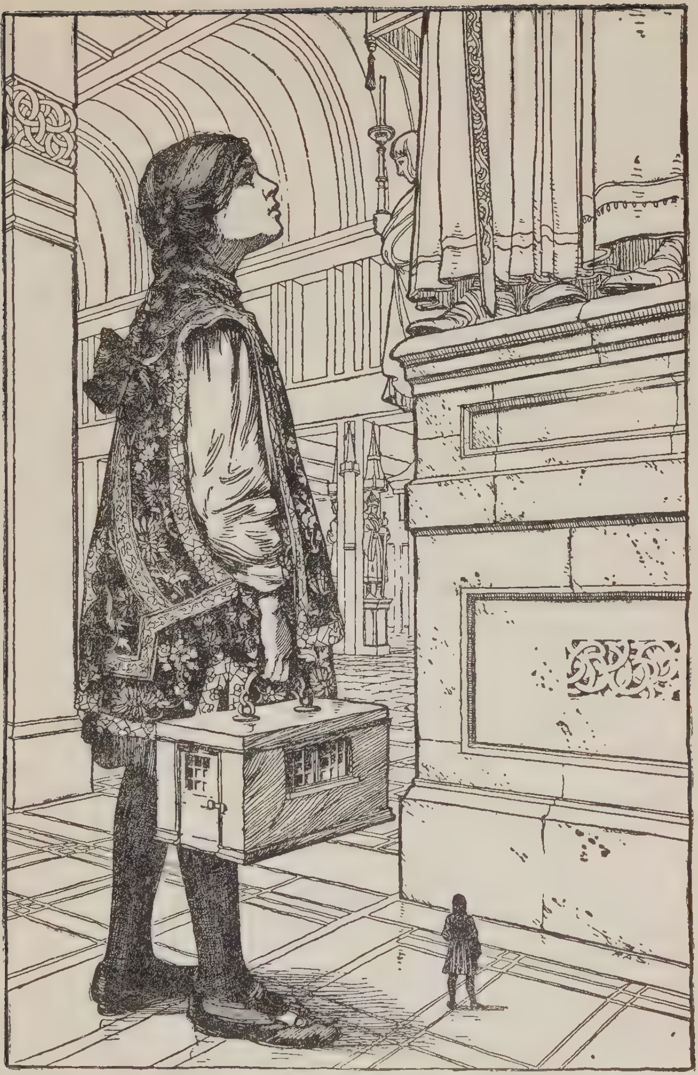
The king's palace is no regular edifice, but a heap of buildings, about seven miles round; the chief rooms are generally two hundred forty feet high and broad and long in proportion. A coach was allowed to Glumdalclitch and me, wherein her governess frequently took her out to see the town or go among the shops. I was always of the party, carried in my box; although the girl, at my own desire, would often take me out and hold me in her hand, that I might more conveniently view the houses and the people as we passed along the streets. I reckoned our coach to be about the square of Westminister Hall, but not altogether so high; however, I cannot be very exact.

Besides the large box in which I was usually carried, the queen ordered a smaller one to be made for me, of about twelve feet square and ten high, for the convenience of traveling. The other was somewhat too large for Glumdalclitch's lap and cumbersome in the coach. This traveling closet was an exact square, with a window in the middle of three of the squares. Each window was latticed with iron wire on the outside, to prevent accidents in long journeys. On the fourth side, which had no window, two strong staples were fixed, through which the person that carried me, when I had a mind to be on horseback, put a leather belt, and buckled it about his waist. This was always the office of some grave trusty servant, in whom I could confide, whether I attended the king and queen in their progresses, or were disposed to see the gardens, or pay a visit to some great lady or minister of state in the court.

In journeys, when I was weary of the coach, a servant on horseback would buckle on my box and place it upon a cushion before him; and there I had a full prospect of the country on three sides, from my three windows. I had in this closet a field bed, a hammock hung from the ceiling, two chairs, and a table, neatly screwed to the floor, to prevent being tossed about by the movement of the horse or the coach. And having been long used to sea voyages, those motions, although sometimes very violent, did not much disturb me.

Whenever I had a mind to see the town, it was always in my traveling closet: which Glumdalclitch held in her lap in a kind of open sedan, after the fashion of the country, borne by four men and attended by two others in the queen's livery. The people, who had often heard of me, were very curious to crowd about the sedan and the girl was kind enough to make the bearers stop and to take me in her hand that I might be more conveniently seen.

I was very desirous to see the chief temple and particularly the tower belonging to it, which is reckoned the highest in the kingdom. Accordingly, one day my nurse carried me thither, but I may truly say I came back disappointed. The height is not above three thousand feet, reckoning from the ground to the highest pinnacle top; which, allowing for the



One day my nurse carried me to see the chief temple difference between the size of those people and us in Europe, is no great matter for admiration nor at all equal in proportion (if I rightly remember) to Salisbury steeple. But it must be allowed, that whatever this famous tower wants in height is amply made up in beauty and strength. The walls are nearly a hundred feet thick, built of hewn stone, whereof each is about forty feet square and adorned on all sides with statues of gods and emperors, cut in marble, larger than life, placed in their several niches. I measured a little finger which had fallen down from one of these statues, and found it exactly four feet and an inch in length. Glumdalclitch wrapped it up in her handkerchief and carried it home in her pocket, to keep among her trinkets, of which the girl was very fond, as children at her age usually are.

The king's kitchen is indeed a noble building, vaulted at top and about six hundred feet high. The great oven is not so wide, by ten paces, as the cupola at St. Paul's; for I measured the latter on purpose, after my return. But if I should describe the kitchen grate, the huge pots and kettles, the joints of meat turned on the spits, with many other particulars, perhaps I should be hardly believed.

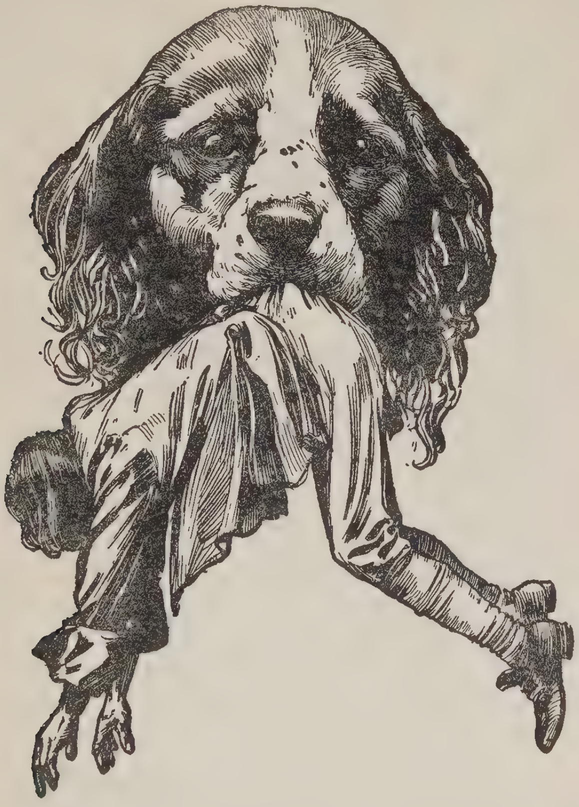
His majesty seldom keeps above six hundred horses in his stables; they are generally from fifty-four to sixty feet high. But, when he goes abroad on solemn days, he is attended, for state, by a militia guard of five hundred horse, which, indeed, I thought was the most splendid sight that could be ever beheld, till I saw part of his army in battalions, whereof I shall find another occasion to speak.

I should have lived happy enough in that country if my littleness had not exposed me to several ridiculous and troublesome accidents. Glumdalclitch often carried me into the gardens of the court in my smaller box and would sometimes take me out of it and hold me in her hand or set me down to walk. I remember, before the dwarf left the queen, he followed us one day into those gardens. My nurse having set me down and he and I being close together, near some dwarf apple trees, I must needs show my wit by a silly allusion between him and the trees. Whereupon the malicious rogue, watching his opportunity when I was walking under one of them, shook it directly over my head, by which a dozen apples, each of them near as large as a Bristol barrel, came tumbling about my ears. One of them hit me on the back as I chanced to stoop and knocked me down flat on my face; but I received no other hurt.

Another day, Glumdalclitch left me on a smooth grass plot to divert myself, while she walked at some distance with her governess. In the meantime there suddenly fell such a violent shower of hail that I was immediately, by the force of it, struck to the ground. When I was down, the hailstones gave me such cruel bangs all over the body, as if I had been pelted with tennis balls. However, I made a shift to creep on all fours and shelter myself, by lying flat on my face, on the lee side of a border of lemon thyme, but so bruised from head to foot that I could not go abroad for ten days. Neither is this at all to be wondered at, because in that country a hailstone is near eighteen hundred times as large as one in Europe.

But a more dangerous accident happened to me in the same garden, when my little nurse, believing she had put me in a secure place (which I often entreated her to do, that I might enjoy my own thoughts), and having left my box at home, to avoid the trouble of carrying it, went to another part of the garden with her governess and some ladies of her acquaintance. While she was absent, and out of hearing, a small white spaniel that belonged to one of the chief gardeners, having got by accident into the garden, happened to range near the place where I lay. The dog, following the scent, came directly up and taking me in his mouth, ran straight to his master wagging his tail, and set me gently on the ground.

By good fortune he had been so well taught that I was carried between his teeth without the least hurt, or even tearing my clothes. But the poor gardener, who knew me well and had a great kindness for me, was in a terrible fright. He gently took me up in both his hands and asked me how I did; but I was so amazed and out of breath that I could not speak a word. In a few minutes I came to myself and he carried me safe to my little nurse, who, by this time, had returned to the place where she left me and was in cruel agonies when I did not appear nor answer when she called. She severely reprimanded the gardener on account of his dog. But the thing was hushed up and never known at court, for the girl was afraid of the queen's anger.



Once a kite, hovering over the garden, made a stoop at me, and if I had not resolutely drawn my sword and run under a thick hedge, he would have certainly carried me away in his talons. Another time, walking to the top of a fresh mole hill, I fell to my neck in the hole through which that animal had cast up the earth. I likewise broke my right shin against the shell of a snail, which I happened to stumble over, as I was walking along and thinking on poor England.

I cannot tell whether I was more pleased or mortified to observe, in these solitary walks, that the smaller birds did not appear to be at all afraid of me, but would hop about within a yard's distance, looking for worms and other food, with as much indifference and security as if no creature at all were near them. I remember a thrush had the confidence to snatch out of my hand, with his bill, a piece of cake that Glumdalclitch had just given me for my breakfast. When I attempted to catch any of these birds, they would boldly turn against me, endeavoring to peck my fingers, which I durst not venture within their reach; and then they would hop back unconcerned, to hunt for worms or snails, as they did before.

But one day I took a thick cudgel and threw it with all my strength, so luckily, at a linnet, that I knocked him down, and seizing him by the neck with both my hands, ran with him in triumph to my nurse. However, the bird, who had been only stunned, recovering himself, gave me so many boxes with his wings on both sides of my head and body, though I held him at arm's length, and was out of the reach of his claws, that I was twenty times thinking to let him go. But I was soon relieved by one of our servants, who wrung off the bird's neck and I had him next day for dinner, by the queen's command. This linnet, as near as I can remember, seemed to be somewhat larger than an English swan.

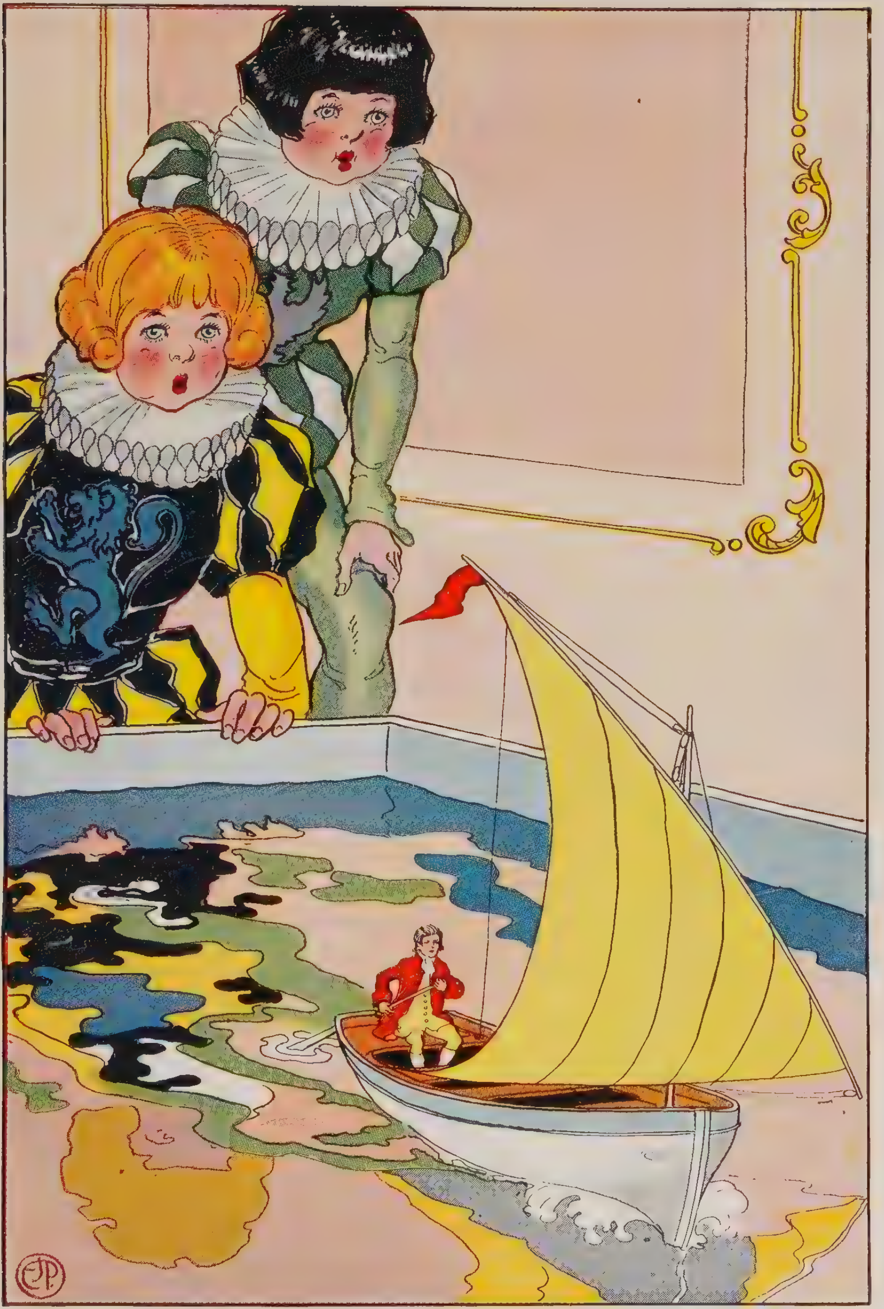
The queen, who often used to hear me talk of sea voyages and took all occasions to divert me when I was melancholy, asked me whether I understood how to handle a sail or an oar and whether a little exercise of rowing might not be convenient for my health. I answered that I understood both very well; for although my proper employment had been to be surgeon or doctor to the ship, yet often, upon a pinch, I was forced to work like a common mariner. But I could not see how this could be done in their country, where the smallest wherry was equal to a first-rate man-of-war among us; and such a boat as I could manage would never live in any of their rivers. Her majesty said that if I would contrive a boat, her own joiner should make it and she would provide a place for me to sail in.

The fellow was an ingenious workman, and, by my instructions, in ten days finished a pleasure boat, with all its tackling, able conveniently to hold eight Europeans. When it was finished, the queen was so delighted that she ran with it in her lap to the king, who ordered it to be put in a cistern, full of water, with me in it, by the way of trial; where I could not manage my two sculls or little oars for want of room. But the queen had before contrived another project. She ordered the joiner to make a wooden trough of three hundred feet long, fifty broad, and eight deep. This was placed on the floor along the wall, in an outer room of the palace. It had a cock near the bottom to let out the water when it began to grow stale; and two servants could easily fill it in half an hour.

Here I often used to row for my own diversion, as well as that of the queen and her ladies, who thought themselves well entertained with my skill and agility. Sometimes I would put up my sail and then my business was only to steer, while the ladies gave me a gale with their fans; and when they were weary, some of their pages would blow my sail forward with their breath, while I showed my art by steering starboard or larboard as I pleased.

When I had done, Glumdalclitch always carried back my boat into her closet and hung it on a nail to dry.

In this exercise I once met with an accident, which had like to have cost me my life. One of the pages having put my boat into the trough, the governess who attended Glumdalclitch lifted me up, to place me in the boat. I happened to slip through her fingers and should have fallen down forty feet upon the floor, if, by the luckiest chance in the world, I had not been stopped by a pin that stuck in the good



The pages would blow my sail forward with their breath

gentlewoman's gown. The head of the pin passed between my shirt and the waistband of my breeches and thus I was held by the middle in the air till Glumdalclitch ran to my relief.

Another time, one of the servants, whose office it was to fill my trough every third day with fresh water, was so careless as to let a huge frog slip out of his pail. The frog lay concealed till I was put into my boat, but then, seeing a resting place, climbed up and made it lean so much on one side that I was forced to balance it with all my weight on the other, to prevent overturning. When the frog was got in, it hopped at once half the length of the boat and then over my head, backward and forward. The largeness of its features made it appear the most deformed animal that can be conceived. However, I desired Glumdalclitch to let me deal with it alone. I banged it a good while with one of my sculls and at last forced it to leap out of the boat.

But the greatest danger I ever underwent in that kingdom was from a monkey, who belonged to one of the clerks of the kitchen. Glumdalclitch had locked me up in her closet, while she went somewhere upon business or a visit. The weather being very warm, the closet window was left open, as well as the windows and door of my bigger box, in which I usually lived, because of its largeness and conveniency. As I sat quietly meditating at my table, I heard something bounce in at the closet window and skip about from one side to the other; whereat, although I was much alarmed, yet I ventured to look out, but not stirring from my seat. Then I saw this frolicsome animal frisking and leaping up and down, till at last he came to my box, which he seemed to view with great pleasure and curiosity, peeping in at the door and every window.

I retreated to the farther corner of my room, or box; but the monkey looking in at every side, put me into such a fright that I wanted presence of mind to conceal myself under the bed, as I might easily have done. After some time spent in peeping, grinning, and chattering, he at last espied me; and reaching one of his paws in at the door, as a cat does when she plays with a mouse, although I often shifted place to avoid him, he at length seized the lappet of my coat and dragged me out.

He took me up in his right forefoot and held me just as I have seen the same sort of creature do with a kitten in Europe; and when I offered to struggle, he squeezed me so hard that I thought it more prudent to submit. I have good reason to believe that he took me for a young one of his own species, by his often stroking my face very gently with his other paw. In these diversions he was interrupted by a noise at the closet door, as if somebody were opening it; whereupon he suddenly leaped up to the window, at which he had come in, and thence upon the leads and gutters, walking upon three legs and holding me in the fourth, till he clambered up a roof next to ours. I heard Glumdalclitch give a shriek at the moment he was carrying me out. The poor girl was almost distracted; that quarter of the palace was all in an uproar; the servants ran for ladders. The monkey was seen by hundreds in the court, sitting upon the ridge of a building, holding me like a baby in one of his fore paws, and feeding me with the other, by cramming into my mouth some victuals he had squeezed out of the bag on one side of his chaps, and patting me when I would not eat. Many of the rabble below could not forbear laughing; neither do I think they justly ought to be blamed, for, without question, the sight was ridiculous enough to everybody but myself. Some of the people threw up stones hoping to drive the monkey down: but this was strictly forbidden, or else, very probably, my brains had been dashed out.

The ladders were now applied and mounted by several men. The monkey, observing this and not being able to make speed enough with his three legs, let me drop on a ridge tile, and made his escape. Here I sat for some time, five hundred yards from the ground, expecting every moment to be blown down by the wind or to fall by my own giddiness and come tumbling over and over from the ridge to the eaves. But an honest lad, one of my nurse's footmen, climbed up, and putting me into his breeches pocket, brought me down safe.

I was so weak and bruised in the sides with the squeezes given me by this odious animal that I had to keep to my bed a fortnight. The king, queen, and all the court sent every day to inquire after my health: and her majesty made me several visits during my sickness. The monkey was killed and an order made that no such animal should be kept about the palace.

When I attended the king after my recovery, to return him thanks for his favors, he was pleased to rally me a good deal upon this adventure. He asked me what my thoughts were while I lay in the monkey's paw and what I would have done upon such an occasion in my own country. I told his majesty that in Europe we had no monkeys except such as were brought for curiosities from other places and so small that I could deal with a dozen of them together, if they presumed to attack me. And as for that monstrous animal, with whom I was so lately engaged (it was indeed as large as an elephant), if my fears had suffered me to think so far as to make use of my sword (looking fiercely and clapping my hand upon the hilt, as I spoke) when he poked his paw into my chamber, perhaps I should have given him such a wound as would have made him glad to withdraw it, with more haste than he put in it. This I delivered in a firm tone, like a person who was jealous lest his courage should be called in question.

However, my speech produced nothing else besides a loud laughter, which all the respect due to his majesty from those about him could not make them contain. This made me reflect how vain an attempt it is for a man to endeavor to do himself honor among those not in the same degree with himself. Often, in England, a little contemptible varlet, without the least title to birth, person, wit, or common sense, shall presume to look with importance and put himself upon a footing with the greatest person of the kingdom.

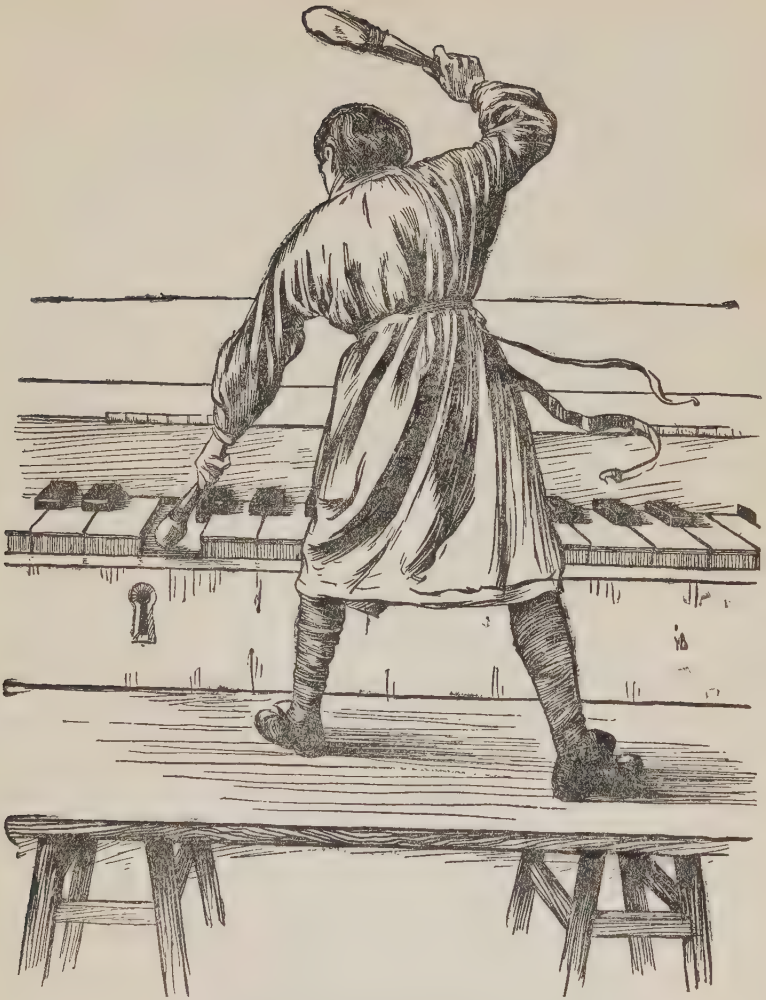
I was every day furnishing the court with some ridiculous story and Glumdalclitch, although she loved me to excess, yet was arch enough to inform the queen whenever I committed any folly that she thought would be diverting to her majesty. The girl was once carried by her governess to take the air about an hour's distance, or thirty miles from town. They alighted out of the coach near a small footpath in a field and Glumdalclitch setting down my traveling box, I went out of it to walk. There was a small heap of dirt in the path and I must needs try my activity by attempting to leap over it. I took a run, but unfortunately jumped short, and found myself just in the middle, up to my knees. I waded through with some difficulty and one of the footmen wiped me as clean as he could with his handkerchief, for I was filthily bemired. My nurse confined me to my box till we returned home, when the queen was soon informed of what had passed and the footmen spread it about the court; so that all the mirth for some days was at my expense.

CHAPTER V

GULLIVER ENTERTAINS THE KING WITH MUSIC AND DISCOURSE

THE king, who delighted in music, had frequent concerts at court, to which I was sometimes carried and set in my box on the table to hear them; but the noise was so great that I could hardly distinguish the tunes. I am confident that all the drums and trumpets of a royal army, beating and sounding together, just at your ears, could not equal it. My practice was to have my box removed from the place where the performers sat, as far as I could; then to shut the doors and windows of it and draw the window curtains; after which I found their music not disagreeable.

I had learned in my youth to play a little upon the spinet. Glumdalclitch kept one in her chamber and a master attended twice a week to teach her: I called it a spinet, because it somewhat resembled that instrument and was played upon in the same manner. A fancy came into my head that I would entertain the king and queen with an English tune upon this



I banged the proper keys with my two sticks instrument. But this appeared extremely difficult; for the spinet was near sixty feet long, each key being almost a foot wide, so that with my arms extended I could not reach to above five keys; and to press them down required a good smart stroke with my fist, which would be too great a labor and to no purpose. The method I contrived was this: I prepared two round sticks, about the bigness of common cudgels; they were thicker at one end than the other and I covered the thicker ends with pieces of a mouse's skin, that by rapping on them I might neither damage the tops of the keys nor interrupt the sound. Before the spinet a bench was placed about four feet below the keys and I was put upon the bench. I ran upon it, that way and this, as fast as I could, banging the proper keys with my two sticks and made a shift to play a jig, to the great satisfaction of both their majesties. It was the most violent exercise that I ever underwent; and yet I could not strike above sixteen keys nor consequently play the bass and treble together, as other artists do; which was a great disadvantage to my performance.

The king, who, as I before observed, was a prince of excellent understanding, would frequently order that I should be brought in my box and set upon the table in his private room. He would then command me to bring one of my chairs out of my box and sit down within three yards' distance upon the top of the cabinet, which brought me almost to a level with his face. In this manner I had several conversations with him.

I one day took the freedom to tell his majesty that the contempt he discovered toward Europe and the rest of the world did not correspond to those excellent qualities of mind that he was master of; that reason did not extend itself with the bulk of the body. On the contrary, we observed in our country that the tallest persons were usually the least provided with it. Among other animals, bees and ants had the reputation of more industry, art, and sagacity than many of the larger kinds; and, inconsiderable as he took me to be, I hoped I might live to do his majesty some signal service. The king heard me with attention and began to conceive a much better opinion of me than he had ever before. He desired that I would give him as exact an account of the government of England as I possibly could, adding that he should be glad to hear of anything that might deserve imitation.

I began my discourse by informing his majesty that our dominions consisted of two islands, which composed three mighty kingdoms, under one sovereign, besides our plantations in America.* I dwelt long upon the fertility of our soil and the temperature of our climate. I then spoke at large upon the

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* Gulliver is writing seventy-five years before the American War of Independence. The British Empire had at that time not extended to include the various dominions which now belong to it—India, Australia, etc.

English Parliament; partly made up of an illustrious body, called the House of Lords; persons of the noblest blood and of the most ancient and ample estates. I described that extraordinary care always taken of their education in art and arms, to qualify them for being counselors both to the king and kingdom; to have a share in the legislature; to be members of the highest court, whence there can be no appeal; and to be champions always ready for the defense of their prince and country, by their valor, conduct, and fidelity. These were the ornament and bulwark of the kingdom, worthy followers of their most renowned ancestors. To these were joined several holy persons, as part of that assembly, under the title of bishops, whose peculiar business it is to take care of religion and of those who instruct the people therein.

The other part of Parliament, I told him, consisted of an assembly called the House of Commons, gentlemen chosen by the people themselves, for their great abilities and love of their country, to represent the wisdom of the whole nation. These two bodies made up the most august assembly in Europe, to whom, in conjunction with the prince, the whole legislature is committed.

I then descended to the courts of justice; over which the judges, those venerable interpreters of the law, presided, for determining the disputed rights and properties of men, as well as for the punishment of vice and protection of innocence. I mentioned the prudent management of our treasury; the valor and achievements of our forces, by sea and land. I computed the number of our people, by reckoning how many millions there might be of each religious sect, or political party among us. I did not omit even our sports and pastimes or any other particular which I thought might do honor to my country. And I finished all with a brief historical account of affairs and events in England for about a hundred years past.

This conversation was not ended under five audiences, each of several hours; and the king heard the whole with great attention, frequently taking notes of what I spoke.

In a sixth audience, his majesty, consulting his notes, asked me many questions. He asked what methods were used to cultivate the minds and bodies of our young nobility and in what kind of business they commonly spent the first and most teachable part of their lives; what course was taken to supply that assembly when any noble family died out; what qualities were necessary in those who are to be created new lords; what knowledge these lords had of the laws of their country; and whether they were so free from greed that they would never take a bribe.

He then desired to know what arts were practiced in electing those whom I called commoners; whether a stranger with a strong purse might not influence the vulgar voters to choose him before their own landlord, or the most considerable gentleman in the neighborhood? He inquired, too, as to the honesty of motive of the members of this assembly; and whether their service without salary was entirely for love of country or because they hoped to gain something for themselves.

Upon what I said in relation to our courts of justice his majesty desired to be satisfied in several points. He asked what time was usually spent in determining between right and wrong and what degree of expense; whether lawyers had liberty to plead in causes known to be unjust, and whether party, in religion or politics, was observed to be of any weight in the scale of justice.

He wondered to hear me talk of such expensive wars. He thought that certainly we must be a quarrelsome people, or live among very bad neighbors and that our generals must needs be richer than our kings. He asked what business we had out of our own islands, unless upon the score of trade, or treaty, or to defend the coast with our fleets. Above all, he was amazed to hear me talk of a hired standing army, in the midst of peace and among a free people. He said that if we were governed by our own consent, in the persons of our representatives, he could not imagine of whom we were afraid or against whom we were to fight; and asked me whether a private man's house might not better be defended by himself, his children, and his family, than by half a dozen rascals, picked up at a venture in the streets for small wages, who might get a hundred times more by cutting their throats.

Among the amusements of our nobility and gentry I had mentioned gambling. He desired to know at what age this entertainment was usually taken up, and when it was laid down; how much of their time it employed; whether it ever went so high as to affect their fortunes; and whether mean, vicious people, by their dexterity in that art, might not arrive at great riches.

Finally, taking me into his hands and stroking me gently, his majesty spoke these words, which I shall never forget: "My little friend Grildrig, you have given a most admirable description of your country; but it does not appear to me to deserve such high praise. Your lawmakers are ignorant, idle, and vicious; your judges pervert and evade the laws. Men are not ennobled on account of their virtue; priests are not advanced for their piety or learning. Soldiers do not rise through their conduct or valor, judges through their integrity, nor senators for the love of their country. As for yourself," continued the king, "who have spent the greatest part of your life in traveling, I am well disposed to hope you may hitherto have escaped many vices of your country. But by what I have gathered from your own story, I cannot but conclude the bulk of your natives to be the most pernicious race of little odious creatures that nature ever suffered to crawl upon the surface of the earth.*

It was in vain for me to resent these words, and I was forced to rest with patience while my noble and beloved country was so unkindly spoken of. However, I felt that great allowances should be given to a king who lived wholly secluded from the rest of the world and must therefore be altogether unacquainted with the manners and customs that most prevail in other nations. The want of knowledge will ever produce many prejudices and a certain narrowness of thinking.

To show the miserable effects of a narrow education, I will here tell what happened when I made to his majesty a proposal greatly to his advantage. I told him of the invention and uses of gunpowder. "A proper quantity of this powder," I said, "rammed into a hollow tube of brass or iron, drives a ball of iron or lead with such violence and speed that nothing can sustain its force. The largest balls thus discharged not only destroy whole ranks of an army at once, but batter the strongest walls to the ground; sink down ships with a thousand men in each, to the bottom of the sea; and when linked together by a chain, cut through masts and rigging, divide hundreds of bodies in the middle, and lay all waste before them. We often put this powder into large hollow balls of iron and discharge them into some city that we are besieging. They rip up the pavements, tear the houses to pieces, and kill all who come near."

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* In the words of the King of Brobdingnag, Swift is expressing his own very sharp criticism of the condition of the English government in his day.

I went on to say that I knew how to make gunpowder, cannon, and cannon balls, and I would put my knowledge at the service of his majesty.

The king was struck with horror at the description I had given of these terrible engines and the proposal I had made. He was amazed that I could entertain such inhuman ideas and could appear wholly unmoved at all the scenes of blood and desolation which I had painted, as the common effects of those destructive machines. "Some evil genius," he said, "enemy to mankind, must have been the first contriver of them." As for himself, he protested that although few things delighted him so much as new discoveries in art or in nature, yet he would rather lose half his kingdom than share such a secret; which he commanded me, as I valued my life, never to mention any more.*

The king held no less low an opinion of the arts of the politicians. Indeed, he gave it for his belief that whoever could make two ears of corn or two blades of grass to grow upon a spot of ground where only one grew before would deserve better of mankind and do more service to his country than the whole race of politicians put together.

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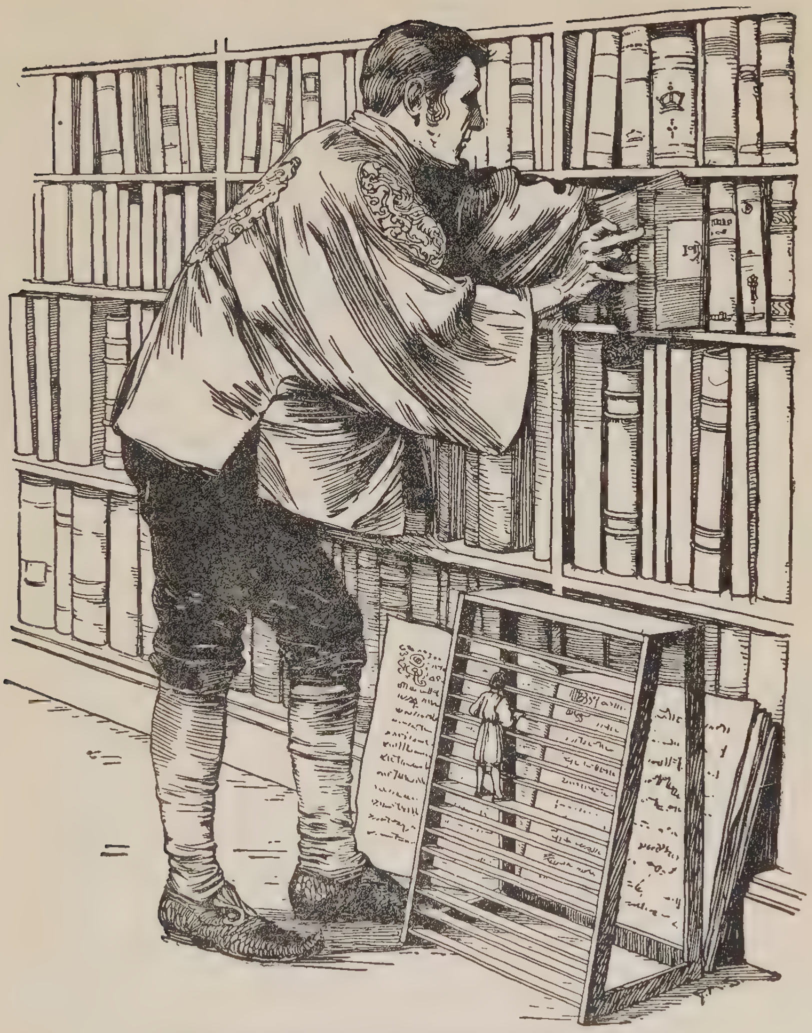
* Swift makes the king express the writer's own horror of destructive warfare.

The learning of this people is very defective—consisting only of morality, history, poetry, and mathematics, wherein they must be allowed to excel. But the last of these is wholly applied to what may be useful in life, to the improvement of agriculture and all mechanical arts.

No law of that country must exceed in words the number of letters in their alphabet, which consists only of two-and-twenty. But, indeed, few of them extend even to that length. They are expressed in the most plain and simple terms.

They have had the art of printing, as well as the Chinese, time out of mind: but their libraries are not very large. That of the king, which is reckoned the largest, does not amount to above a thousand volumes, placed in a gallery of twelve hundred feet long, whence I had liberty to borrow what books I pleased. The queen's joiner had contrived in one of Glumdalclitch's rooms a kind of wooden machine five-and-twenty feet high, formed like a standing ladder. The steps were each fifty feet long. It was indeed a movable pair of stairs, the lowest end placed at ten feet distance from the wall of the chamber.

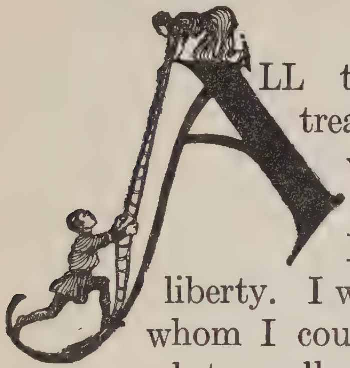
The book that I had a mind to read was put up leaning against the wall. I first mounted to the upper step of the ladder, and turning my face toward the book, began at the top of the page. Walking to the



The book was put up leaning against the wall right or left about eight to ten paces, according to the length of the lines, till I had gotten a little below the level of my eyes, I then descended gradually till I came to the bottom. After this I mounted again and began the other page, in the same manner, and so turned over the leaf, which I could easily do with both my hands, for it was as thick and stiff as a pasteboard and in the largest folios not above eighteen or twenty feet long.

CHAPTER VI

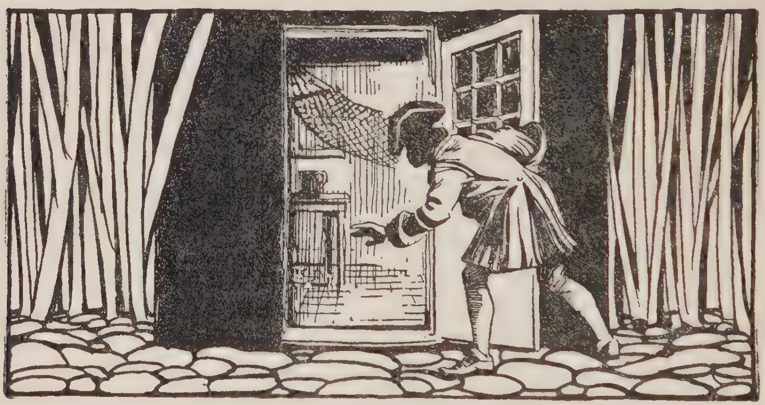
GULLIVER'S RETURN TO ENGLAND



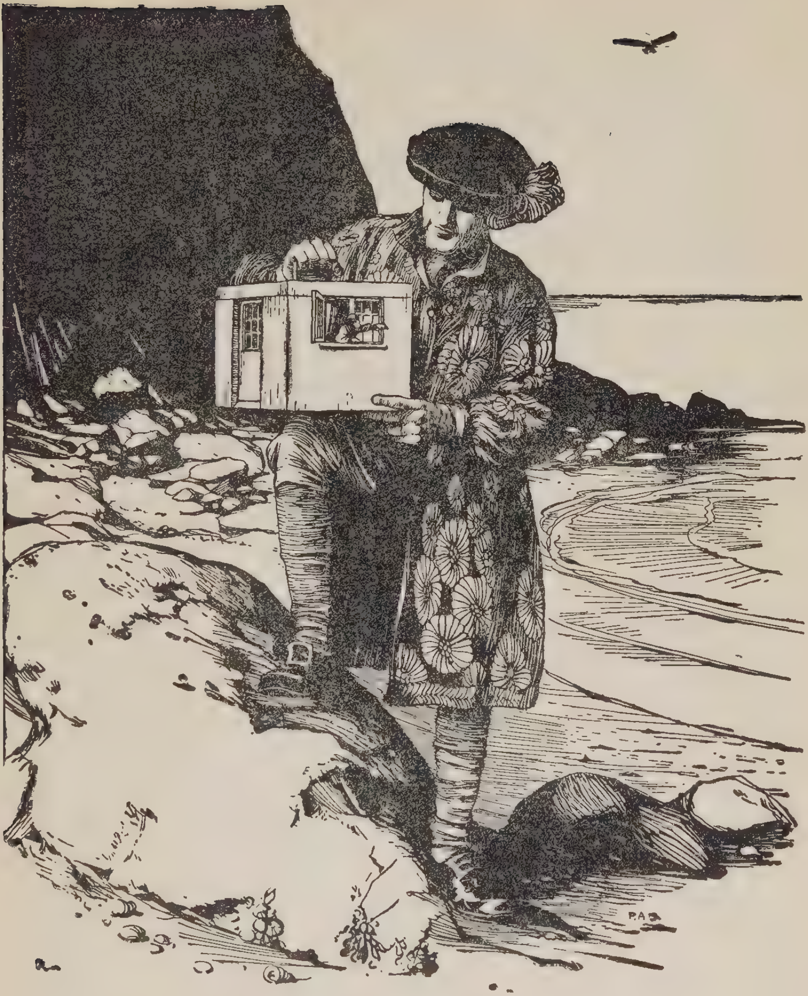
ALL this time, although I was treated with much kindness and was the favorite of the king and queen and the whole court, I still hoped to recover my liberty. I wanted to be among people with whom I could converse upon equal terms and to walk about the streets and fields without being afraid of being trod to death like a frog or a young puppy. But my deliverance came sooner than I expected and in a manner not very common.

I had now been two years in the country. About the beginning of the third, Glumdalclitch and I attended the king and queen, in a progress to the south coast of the kingdom. I was carried as usual, in my traveling box, which, as I have already described, was a very convenient closet of twelve feet wide. And I had ordered a hammock to be fixed, by silken ropes, from the four corners at the top, to break the jolts when a servant carried me before him on horseback. I would often sleep in my hammock while we were upon the road. On the roof of my closet, not directly over the middle of the hammock, was a hole of a foot square, to give me air in hot weather as I slept. This hole I shut at pleasure, with a board that drew backward and forward through a groove.

When we came to our journey's end, the king thought proper to pass a few days at a palace he has near Flanflasnic, a city within eighteen English miles of the seaside. Glumdalclitch and I were much fatigued; I had gotten a small cold, but the poor girl was so ill as to be confined to her chamber. I longed to see the ocean, which must be the only scene of my escape, if ever it should happen. I pretended to be worse than I really was and desired leave to take the fresh air of the sea, with a page whom I was very fond of and who had sometimes been trusted with me.



I shall never forget with what willingness Glumdalclitch consented nor the strict charge she gave



I ordered the boy to set me down

the page to be careful of me, bursting at the same time into a flood of tears, as if she had some foreboding of what was to happen.

The boy took me out in my box, about half an hour's walk from the palace, toward the rocks on the seashore. I ordered him to set me down, and, lifting up one of my windows, cast many a wistful, melancholy look toward the sea. I found myself not very well and told the page that I had a mind to take a nap in my hammock, which I hoped would do me good. I got in and the boy shut the window close down to keep out the cold.

I soon fell asleep and I suppose that while I slept the page, thinking no danger could happen, went among the rocks to look for bird's eggs. I had before observed him from my window searching about and picking up one or two in the clefts. Be that as it will, I found myself suddenly awaked with a violent pull upon the ring which was fastened at the top of my box. I felt my box raised very high in the air and then borne forward with great speed. The first jolt had like to have shaken me out of my hammock, but afterward the motion was easy enough. I called out several times as loud as I could raise my voice, but all to no purpose. I looked toward my windows and could see nothing but the clouds and sky.

I heard a noise just over my head, like the clapping of wings and then began to perceive the woeful condition I was in; that some eagle had got the ring of my box in his beak, with an intent to let it fall on a rock, like a tortoise in a shell, and then pick out my body and devour it.

In a little time I observed the noise and flutter of wings to increase very fast and my box was tossed up and down like a tavern sign on a windy day. I heard several bangs or buffets, as I thought, given to the eagle and then, all on a sudden, felt myself falling straight down, for above a minute, but with such swiftness that I almost lost my breath. My fall was stopped by a terrible squash, that sounded louder to my ears than the cataract of Niagara. I was quite in the dark for another minute and then my box began to rise so high that I could see light from the tops of the windows. I now perceived I had fallen into the sea.

My box, by the weight of my body, the goods that were in it, and the broad plates of iron fixed for strength at the four corners of the top and bottom, floated about five feet deep in water. I suppose that the eagle which flew away with my box was pursued by two or three others and forced to let me drop, while he defended himself against the rest, who hoped to share in the prey.

The plates of iron fastened at the bottom of the box (for those were the strongest) preserved the balance while it fell and hindered it from being broken on the surface of the water. Every joint of it was well grooved; and the door did not move on hinges, but up and down like a sash, which kept my closet so tight that very little water came in. I got with much difficulty out of my hammock, having first ventured to draw back the slip board on the roof already mentioned, contrived on purpose to let in air, for want of which I found myself almost stifled.

How often did I then wish myself with my dear Glumdalclitch, from whom one single hour had so far divided me! Amidst my misfortunes I could not help lamenting my poor nurse, the grief that she would suffer at my loss, and the displeasure of the queen. Meantime, I expected every moment to see my box dashed to pieces or at least overset by the first violent blast or rising wave. A breach in one pane of glass would have been immediate death; nor could anything have preserved the windows, but the strong lattice wires on the outside.

I saw the water ooze in at several crannies, although the leaks were small and I endeavored to stop them as well as I could. I was not able to lift up the roof of my closet, which otherwise I certainly should have done and sat on the top of it. There I might at least preserve myself some hours longer than by being shut up (as I may call it) in the hold. Or if I escaped these dangers for a day or two, what could I expect but a miserable death of cold and hunger? I was four hours under these circumstances, expecting and indeed wishing that every moment might be my last.

I have already told the reader that there were two strong staples fixed upon that side of my box which had no window and into which the servant who used to carry me on horseback would put a leathern belt and buckle it about his waist. Being in this disconsolate state, I heard, or at least thought I heard, some kind of grating noise on that side of my box where the staples were fixed; and soon after I began to fancy that the box was pulled or towed along the sea; for I now and then felt a sort of tugging, which made the waves rise near the tops of my windows, leaving me almost in the dark. This gave me some faint hopes of relief, although I was not able to imagine how it could be brought about.

I ventured to unscrew one of my chairs, which were always fastened to the floor; and having made a hard shift to screw it down again, directly under the slipping board that I had lately opened, I mounted on the chair, and putting my mouth as near as I could to the hole, I called for help in a loud voice and in all the languages I understood. I then fastened my handkerchief to a stick I usually carried, and thrusting it up the hole, waved it several times in the air, that if any boat or ship were near, the seamen might think some unhappy mortal to be shut up in the box.

I found no effect from all I could do, but plainly perceived my closet to be moved along. In the space of an hour that side of the box where the staples were struck against something that was hard. I plainly heard a noise upon the cover of my closet, like that of a cable and the grating of it as it passed through the ring. I then found myself hoisted up, by degrees, at least three feet higher than I was before.

I again thrust up my stick and handkerchief, calling for help till I was almost hoarse. In return, I heard a great shout repeated three times, giving me such transports of joy as are not to be conceived but by those who feel them. I now heard a trampling over my head and somebody calling through the hole with a loud voice, in the English tongue, "If there be anybody below, let them speak."

I answered that I was an Englishman, drawn by ill fortune into the greatest calamity that ever any creature underwent, and begged, by all that was moving, to be delivered out of the dungeon I was in.

The voice replied, "You are safe; your box is fastened to the ship; and the carpenter shall immediately come and saw a hole in the cover, large enough to pull you out."

I answered that that was needless and would take up too much time; for there was no more to be done, but let one of the crew put his finger into the ring and take the box out of the sea into the ship and so into the captain's cabin.

Some of them, upon hearing me talk so wildly,* thought I was mad; others laughed; for indeed it

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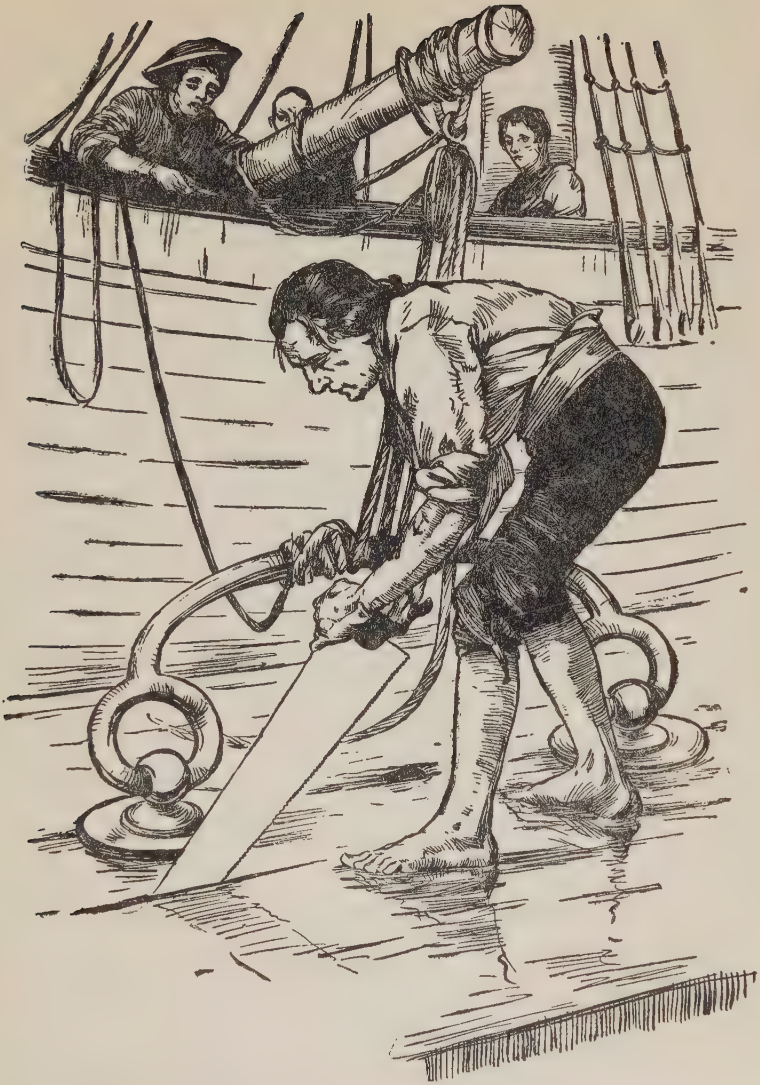
* The box, twelve feet square, was, of course, too large to be taken on board.



The carpenter came and in a few minutes sawed a passage about four feet square never came into my head that I was now got among people of my own stature and strength. The carpenter came and in a few minutes sawed a passage about four feet square, then let down a small ladder, upon which I mounted, and thence was taken into the ship in a very weak condition.

The sailors were all in amazement and asked me a thousand questions which I had no inclination to answer. I was equally confounded at the sight of so many pigmies, for such I took them to be, after having so long accustomed mine eyes to the monstrous objects I had left. But the captain, Mr. Thomas Wilcocks, an honest, worthy man, observing I was ready to faint, took me into his cabin, gave me a cordial to comfort me, and made me turn in upon his own bed, advising me to take a little rest, of which I had great need.

Before I went to sleep, I gave him to understand that I had some valuable furniture in my box, too good to be lost: a fine hammock, a handsome field bed, two chairs, a table, and a cabinet; that my closet was hung on all sides, or rather quilted, with silk and cotton; that if he would let one of the crew bring my closet into his cabin, I would open it there before him and show him my goods. The captain, hearing me utter these absurdities, concluded I was raving; however (I suppose to pacify me) he promised to give orders as I desired, and, going upon deck, sent some of his men down into my closet, whence (as I afterward found) they drew up all my goods and stripped off the quilting; but the chairs, cabinet, and bedstead, being screwed to the floor, were much damaged by the ignorance of the seamen, who tore them up by force. Then they knocked off some of the boards for the use of the ship and when they had got all they had a mind for, let the hull drop into the sea, which, by reason of many breaches made in the bottom and sides, sunk outright. I was glad not to have been a spectator of the havoc they made.

I slept some hours, disturbed with dreams of the place that I had left and the dangers I had escaped. However, upon waking, I found myself much recovered. It was now about eight o'clock at night and the captain ordered supper immediately, thinking I had already fasted too long. He entertained me with great kindness, observing me not to look wildly or talk inconsistently; and when we were left alone, desired I would give him a relation of my travels and by what accident I came to be set adrift in that monstrous wooden chest.

He said that about twelve o'clock at noon, as he was looking through his glass, he spied it at a distance and thought it was a sail. Upon coming nearer and finding out his error, he sent out his long boat, to discover what it was. His men came back in a fright, saying that they had seen a swimming house. He laughed at their folly and went himself in the boat, ordering his men to take a strong cable along with them. The weather being calm, he rowed round me several times, observing my windows and the wire lattices that defended them. He discovered two staples upon one side, which was all of boards, without any passage for light. He then commanded his men to row up to that side, and, fastening a cable to one of the staples, ordered them to tow my chest, as they called it, toward the ship.

When it was there, he gave directions to fasten another cable to the ring fixed in the cover and to raise up my chest with pulleys, which all the sailors were not able to do above two or three feet. He said they saw my stick and handkerchief thrust out of the hole and concluded that some unhappy man must be shut up in the cavity.

I asked whether he or the crew had seen any huge birds in the air, about the time he first discovered me. He answered that, discoursing this matter with the sailors while I was asleep, one of them said that he had observed three eagles flying toward the north, but remarked nothing of their being larger than the usual size; which I suppose must be imputed to the great height they were at; and he could not guess the reason of my question.

I then asked the captain how far he reckoned we might be from land. He said we were at least a hundred leagues. I assured him that he must be mistaken by almost half, for I had not left the country whence I came above two hours before I dropped into the sea. Whereupon he began to think that my brain was disturbed, of which he gave me a hint and advised me to go to bed, in a cabin that he had provided. I assured him I was well refreshed with his good entertainment and company and as much in my senses as ever I was in my life.

He then grew serious and desired to ask me freely whether I were not troubled in my mind by the consciousness of some enormous crime, for which I was punished, at the command of some prince, by exposing me in that chest; as great criminals, in other countries, have been forced to sea in a leaky vessel, without provisions. Although he should be sorry to have taken so ill a man into his ship, yet he would engage his word to set me safe ashore in the first port where we arrived. He added that his suspicions were much increased by some very absurd speeches I had made at first to his sailors and afterwards to himself, in relation to my chest, as well as by my odd looks and behavior while I was at supper.

I begged his patience to hear me tell my story, which I faithfully did, from the last time I left England to the moment he first discovered me. And as truth always forces its way into reasonable minds, so this honest, worthy gentleman, who had some learning and very good sense, was immediately convinced of my truth. But, further to confirm all that I had said, I entreated him to give order that my cabinet should be brought, of which I had the key in my pocket. I opened it in his own presence and showed him the small collection of rarities I made in the country from which I had been so strangely delivered.

There was a collection of needles and pins from a foot to half a yard long; four wasp stings, like joiner's tacks; a lock of the queen's hair; a gold ring which one day she made me a present of in the most obliging manner, taking it from her little finger and throwing it over my head like a collar. I desired the captain would please to accept this ring in return for his civilities; which he absolutely refused. Lastly, I pointed out to him the breeches I had on, which were made of a mouse's skin.

He said he wondered at one thing very much, which was to hear me speak so loud; asking me whether the king and queen of that country were thick of hearing. I told him it was what I had been used to for above two years past and that I wondered as much at the voices of him and his men, who seemed to me only to whisper and yet I could hear them well enough. But when I spoke in that country, it was like a man talking in the streets to another looking out from the top of a steeple, unless when I was placed on a table or held in any person's hand.

I told him I had likewise observed another thing, that when I first got into the ship, and the sailors stood all about me, I thought they were the most contemptible little creatures I had ever beheld. For, indeed, while I was in that prince's country, I could never endure to look in a glass, because the comparison gave me so poor a conceit of myself.

The captain said that while we were at supper he observed me to look at everything with a sort of wonder and that I often seemed hardly able to contain my laughter, which he knew not well how to take, but imputed it to some disorder in my brain. I answered it was very true; and I wondered how I could forbear, when I saw his dishes of the size of a silver threepence, a leg of pork hardly a mouthful, a cup not so big as a nutshell; and so I went on, describing the rest of his household stuff and provisions, after the same manner. For, although the queen had ordered a little equipage of all things necessary for me, while I was in her service, yet my ideas were wholly taken up with what I saw on every side of me, and I winked at my own littleness, as people do at their own faults.

Our voyage back to England, which occupied nine months, was very prosperous. The captain took a kind leave of me, promising that he would come to see me and lent me five shillings with which to hire a horse.

On the road, observing the littleness of the houses, the trees, the cattle, and the people, I began to think myself in Lilliput. I was afraid of trampling on every traveler I met and often called aloud to have them stand out of the way, so that I had like to have gotten one or two broken heads for my impertinence.

When I came to my own house, for which I was forced to inquire, one of the servants opening the door, I bent down to go in (like a goose under a gate), for fear of striking my head. My wife ran out to embrace me, but I stooped lower than her knees, thinking she could otherwise never be able to reach my mouth. My daughter kneeled to ask my blessing, but I could not see her till she arose, having been so long used to stand with my head and eyes erect to above sixty feet; and then I went to take her up with one hand by the waist. I looked down upon the servants and one or two friends who were in the house, as if they had been pigmies and I a giant. I told my wife she had been too thrifty, for I found she had starved herself and her daughter to nothing. In short, I behaved myself so unaccountably that they were all of the captain's opinion when he first saw me and concluded that I had lost my wits.

In a little time, I and my family and friends came to an understanding; but my wife protested I should never go to sea any more; although my evil destiny so ordered that she had not power to hinder me.

PART III

GULLIVER'S LATER VOYAGES

CHAPTER I

AN ISLAND IN THE AIR

I HAD not been at home above ten days when Captain William Robinson, a Cornishman,* commander of the "Hopewell," a stout ship of three hundred tons, came to my house. I had formerly been surgeon of another ship, where he was master, and a fourth part owner, in a voyage to the Levant. He had always treated me more like a brother than an inferior officer; and hearing of my arrival, made me a visit, as I thought only out of friendship, for nothing passed more than what is usual after long absences. But he repeated his visits often, expressing his joy to find me in good health and asking whether I were now settled for life. He intended a voyage to the East Indies in two months; and at last he plainly invited me, though with some apologies, to be surgeon of the ship.

"You shall have another surgeon under you," he said, "and your salary shall be twice the usual pay. And since I know your knowledge in sea affairs to be equal to mine, I will always be glad to follow your advice."

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* Cornwall is the extreme southwest county of England.

He said so many other obliging things and I knew him to be so honest a man, that I could not reject his proposal; the thirst I had of seeing the world, notwithstanding my past misfortunes, continuing as violent as ever. The only difficulty that remained was to persuade my wife, whose consent however I at last obtained, by the prospect of advantage to her children.

We set out on the fifth day of August, 1706, and arrived at Madras, India, on the eleventh of April, 1707. We stayed there three weeks to refresh our crew, many of whom were sick. From thence we went to Tonquin,* where the captain resolved to stay some time, because many of the goods that he intended to buy were not ready. Therefore, in hopes to defray some of the charges he must be at, he bought a sloop, loaded it with several sorts of goods, wherewith the Tonquinese usually trade to the neighboring islands, and putting fourteen men on board, whereof three were of the country, he appointed me master of the sloop and gave me power to trade, while he transacted his affairs at Tonquin.

We had not sailed above three days, when a great storm arising, we were driven five days to the north-northeast and then to the east. After this we had fair weather, but still with a pretty strong gale from the west. Upon the tenth day we were chased by two pirates, who soon overtook us; for my sloop was so deeply laden that she sailed very slowly; neither were we in a condition to defend ourselves. We were boarded about the same time by both the pirates, who entered furiously at the head of their men; but finding us all prostrate upon our faces (for so I gave order), they pinioned us with strong ropes, and setting a guard upon us, went to search the sloop.

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* The most northern part of Indo-China.

I observed among them a Dutchman, who seemed to be of some authority, though he was not commander of either ship. He knew us by our countenances to be Englishmen, and jabbering to us in our own language, swore that we should be tied back to back and thrown into the sea. I spoke Dutch tolerably well; I told him who we were and begged him, in consideration of our being Christians and Protestants, of neighboring countries in strict alliance, that he would move the captains to take some pity on us. This inflamed his rage; he repeated the threatenings, and turning to his companions, spoke with great vehemence in the Japanese language, as I suppose, often using the word *Christianos*.

The largest of the two pirate ships was commanded by a Japanese captain who spoke a little Dutch, but very imperfectly. He came up to me, and after several questions, which I answered in great humility, he said that we should not die. I made the captain a very low bow, and then, turning to the

Dutchman, said I was sorry to find more mercy in a heathen than in a brother Christian. But I had soon reason to repent those foolish words, for that malicious wretch, having often endeavored in vain to persuade both the captains that I might be thrown into the sea, however prevailed so far as to have a punishment inflicted on me worse in all appearance than death itself. My men were sent by an equal division into both the pirate ships and my sloop new manned. As to myself it was determined that I should be set adrift in a small canoe with paddles and a sail and four days' provisions; which last the Japanese captain was so kind as to double out of his own stores and would permit no man to search me. I got down into the canoe, while the Dutchman, standing upon the deck, loaded me with all the curses that his language could afford.

When I was at some distance from the pirates, I discovered by my pocket glass several islands to the southeast. I set up my sail, the wind being fair, with a design to reach the nearest of those islands, which I made a shift to do in about three hours. It was all rocky; however, I got many birds' eggs, and striking fire, I kindled some heath and dry seaweed, by which I roasted my eggs. I ate no other supper, being resolved to spare my provisions as much as I could. I passed the night under the shelter of a rock, strewing some heath under me, and slept pretty well.

The next day I sailed to another island and thence to a third and fourth. On the fifth day I arrived at the last island in my sight and landed in a small creek, about three times the wideness of my canoe. I found the island to be all rocky, only a little intermingled with tufts of grass and sweet-smelling herbs. I took out my small provisions, and after having refreshed myself, I secured the remainder in a cave. I gathered plenty of eggs upon the rocks and got a quantity of dry seaweed and parched grass, which I designed to kindle the next day and roast my eggs as well as I could, for I had about me my flint, steel, match, and burning glass. I lay all night in the cave where I had lodged my provisions. My bed was the same dry grass and seaweed which I intended for fuel.

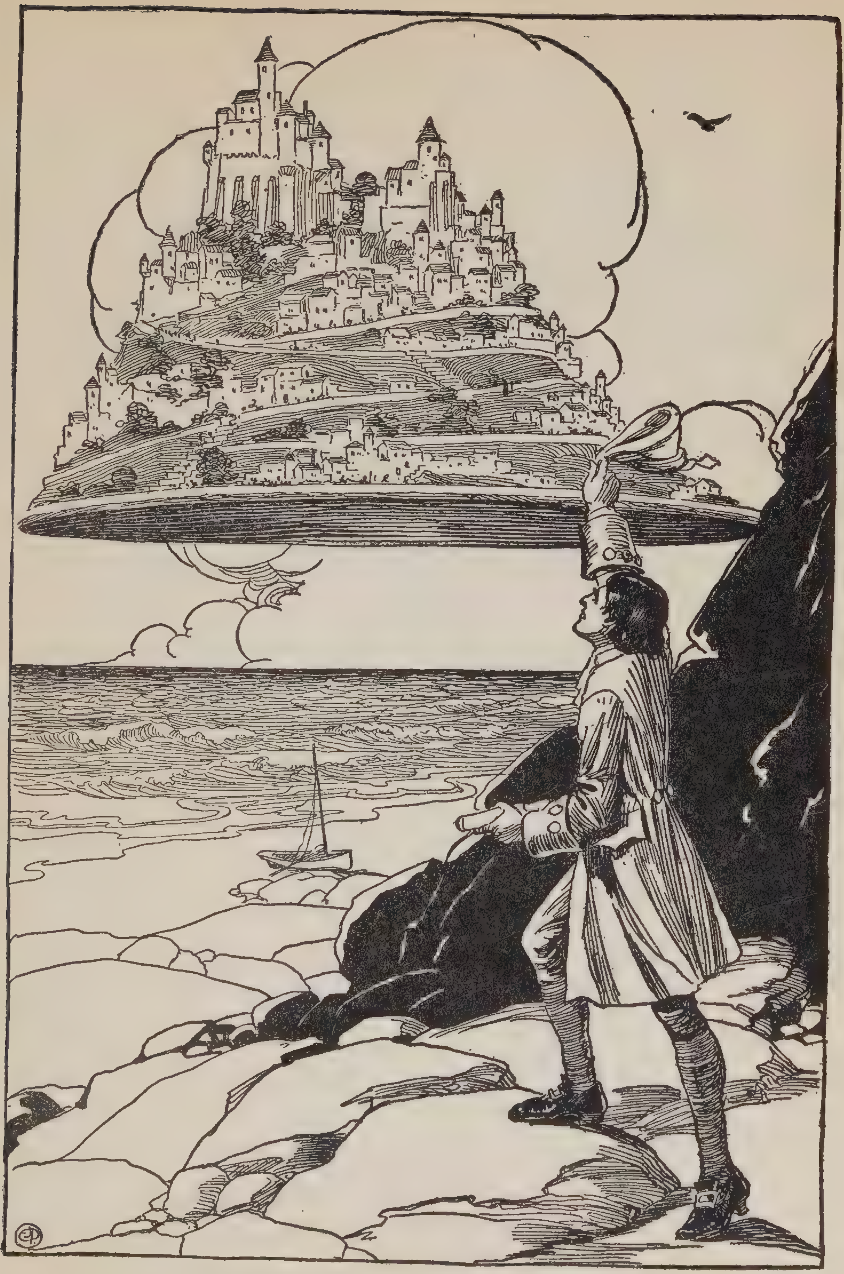
I slept very little, for the disquiets of my mind prevailed over my weariness and kept me awake. I considered how impossible it was to preserve my life in so desolate a place and how miserable my end must be. I was so listless and desponding that I had not the heart to rise; and before I could get spirits enough to creep out of my cave, the day was far advanced.

I walked awhile among the rocks: the sky was perfectly clear and the sun so hot that I was forced to turn my face from it. All on a sudden it became obscure.

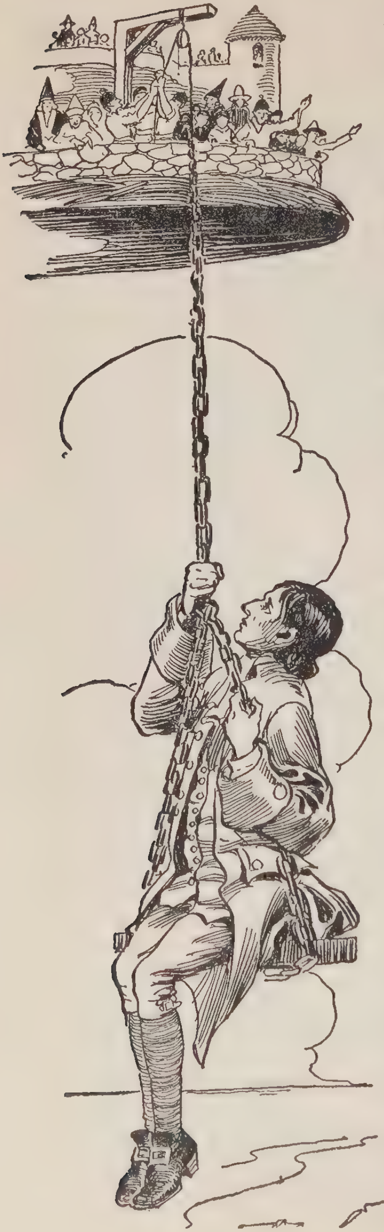
I turned back and perceived a vast opaque body between me and the sun, moving forward toward the island. It seemed to be about two miles high and hid the sun six or seven minutes; but I did not observe the air to be much colder, or the sky more darkened, than if I had stood under the shade of a mountain. As it approached nearer over the place where I was, it appeared to be a firm substance, the bottom flat, smooth, and shining very bright from the reflection of the sea below. I stood upon a height two hundred yards from the shore and saw this vast body descending almost to a parallel with me, at less than a mile distance. I took out my pocket glass and could plainly discover numbers of people moving up and down the sides of it, which appeared to be sloping; but what those people were doing I was not able to distinguish.

The natural love of life gave me some joy and I was ready to entertain a hope that this adventure might, some way or other, help to deliver me from the desolate place and condition I was in.

Yet it was most amazing to see an island in the air, inhabited by men, who, it seemed, could make it rise or sink or go ahead, as they pleased. I waited to see what course the island would take, because it seemed for a while to stand still. Yet soon after it advanced nearer and I could see the sides of it encompassed with several gradations of galleries and stairs, at certain intervals, to descend from one to the other. In the lowest gallery I beheld some people fishing with long angling rods and others looking on.



I waved my cap toward the island



I waved my cap and my handkerchief toward the island; and upon its approach I shouted with the utmost strength of my voice. I soon beheld a crowd gathered to that side which was most in my view. I found by their pointing toward me and to each other, that they plainly discovered me, although they made no return to my shouting. But I could see four or five men running in great haste up the stairs, to the top of the island, who then disappeared. I guessed rightly that these were sent for orders, to some person in authority, upon this occasion.

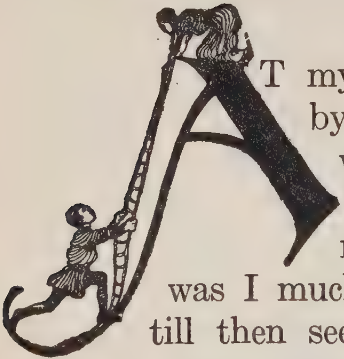
The number of people increased and in less than half an hour the island was raised in such a manner that the lowest gallery appeared in a parallel of less than a hundred yards' distance from the height where

I stood. I then put myself in the most supplicating postures and spoke in the humblest accent, but received no answer. Those who stood nearest over against me seemed to be persons of distinction, as I supposed by their dress. They conferred earnestly with each other, looking often upon me. At length one of them called out in a clear, polite, smooth dialect, not unlike in sound to the Italian. I returned an answer in that language, hoping at least that the cadence might be agreeable to his ears. Although neither of us understood the other, yet my meaning was easily known, for the people saw the distress that I was in.

They made signs for me to come down from the rock and go toward the shore, which I accordingly did; and the flying island being raised to a convenient height, the edge directly over me, a chain was let down from the lowest gallery, with a seat fastened to the bottom, to which I fixed myself and was drawn up by pulleys.

CHAPTER II

LAPUTA, THE FLOATING ISLAND, AND ITS QUEER PEOPLE



AT my alighting I was surrounded by a crowd of people, but those who stood nearest seemed to be of better quality. They beheld me with wonder; neither, indeed, was I much in their debt, having never till then seen a race of mortals so odd in their shapes, clothes, and countenances. Their heads were all bent, either to the right or the left; one of their eyes turned inward and the other directly up to the zenith.* Their outward garments were adorned with the figures of suns, moons, and stars, interwoven with those of fiddles, flutes, harps, trumpets, guitars, harpsichords, and many other instruments of music,† unknown to us in Europe.

I observed, here and there, many in the dress of servants, with blown bladders, each fastened like a flail to the end of a stick, which they carried in their hands. These servants were known as "flappers." In each bladder was a small quantity of dried peas, or little pebbles, as I was afterward informed. With these bladders, they now and then flapped the mouth and ears of those who stood near them. It seems that the minds of these people are so taken up with deep thought that they can neither speak nor listen to others without being roused by some external action upon the organs of speech and hearing. Therefore, those persons who are able to afford it always keep a flapper in their family, as one of their domestics; nor ever walk abroad or make visits without him.

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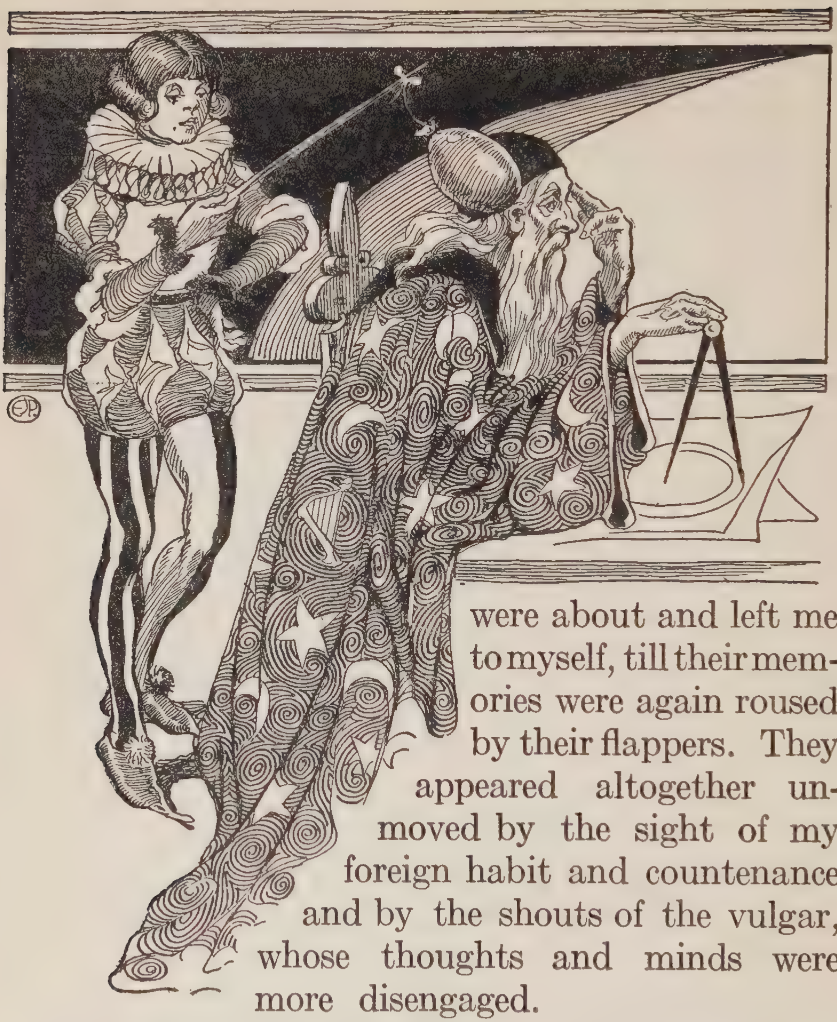
* In describing the people of Laputa, Swift is making fun of the so-called philosophers and scientists, who look at nothing directly and are sometimes absent-minded (eye turned inward) and sometimes looking at things so high that they forget earthly things.

† Science in Swift's day dealt largely with astronomy, mathematics, and physics. Complicated music was just coming into fashion.

The business of this officer is, when two, three, or more persons are in company, gently to strike with his bladder the mouth of him who is to speak and the right ear of him or them to whom the speaker addresses himself. This flapper is likewise employed diligently to attend his master in his walks, and upon occasion to give him a soft flap on his eyes; because he is always so wrapped up in thought that he is in danger of falling down every precipice and bouncing his head against every post; and, in the streets, of jostling others, or being jostled himself into the kennel.

I noticed this peculiar fashion at once, while I was being led up the stairs to the top of the island and from thence to the royal palace. While we were ascending, they forgot several times what they were



were about and left me to myself, till their memories were again roused by their flappers. They appeared altogether unmoved by the sight of my foreign habit and countenance and by the shouts of the vulgar, whose thoughts and minds were more disengaged.

At last we entered the palace and proceeded into the chamber of presence, where I saw the king seated on his throne, attended on each side by persons of quality. Before the throne was a large table filled with globes and spheres and mathematical instruments of all kinds. His majesty took not the least notice of us, although our entrance was not without sufficient noise. He was then deep in a problem; and we waited at least an hour before he could solve it. There stood by him, on each side, a young page with a flap in his hand, and when they saw he was at leisure, one of them gently struck his mouth and the other his right ear. He startled like one awaked on the sudden, and looking toward me and the company I was in, recollected the occasion of our coming, whereof he had been informed before.

He spoke some words, whereupon immediately a young man with a flap came up to my side and flapped me gently on the right ear; but I made signs, as well as I could, that I had no occasion for such an instrument. This, as I afterwards found, gave his majesty, and the whole court, a very low opinion of my understanding. The king asked me several questions and I addressed myself to him in all the languages I had. When it was found I could neither understand nor be understood, I was conducted by his order to an apartment in his palace, where two servants were appointed to attend me.

My dinner was brought and four persons of quality, whom I remembered to have seen very near the king's person, did me the honor to dine with me. We had two courses of three dishes each. In the first course there was a shoulder of mutton cut into an equilateral triangle, a piece of beef into a rhomboid, and a pudding into a cycloid. The second course was two ducks trussed up in the form of fiddles, sausages, and puddings resembling flutes and hautboys, and a breast of veal in the shape of a harp. The servants cut out bread into cones, cylinders, parallelograms, and other mathematical figures.

While we were at dinner, I made bold to ask the names of several things in their language, and those noble persons, by the assistance of their flappers, delighted to give me answers, hoping to raise my admiration of their great abilities, if I could be brought to converse with them. I was soon able to call for bread and drink or whatever else I wanted.

After dinner my company withdrew and a person was sent by the king's order, attended by a flapper. He brought with him pens, ink, and paper, and three or four books, giving me to understand, by signs, that he was sent to teach me the language. We sat together four hours, in which time I wrote down a great number of words in columns, with the translations over against them. I likewise made a shift to learn several short sentences. My tutor would order some of my servants to fetch something, to turn about, to make a bow, to sit, or to stand or walk, and the like. Then I took down the sentence in writing. He showed me also, in one of the books, the figures of the sun, moon, and stars, the zodiac, the tropics, and polar circles, together with the names of many planes and solids. He gave me the names and descriptions of all the musical instruments and the general terms of art in playing on each of them. After he had left me, I placed all my words, with their interpretations, in alphabetical order. And thus, in a few days, by the help of a very faithful memory, I got some insight into their language.

Those to whom the king had intrusted me, observing how ill I was clad, ordered a tailor to come next morning and take my measure for a suit of clothes. This workman did his office after a different manner from those of his trade in Europe. He first took my height by a quadrant and then, with rule and compasses, described the dimensions and outlines of my whole body, all of which he entered upon paper. In six days he brought my clothes, very ill made and quite out of shape, by happening to make a mistake of a figure in the calculation. But my comfort was that I observed such accidents very frequent and little regarded.

During my confinement for want of clothes and by an indisposition that held me some days longer, I much enlarged my dictionary; and when I next went to court, was able to understand many things the king spoke and to return him some kind of answers. His majesty had given orders that the island should move to the vertical point over Lagado, the metropolis of the whole kingdom below, upon the firm earth. It was about ninety leagues distant and our voyage lasted four days and a half. I was not in the least aware of the progressive motion made in the air by the island.

On the second morning, about eleven o'clock, the king himself in person, attended by his nobility, courtiers, and officers, having prepared all their musical instruments, played on them for three hours, without intermission, so that I was quite stunned with the noise*; neither could I possibly guess the meaning, till my tutor informed me. He said that the people of their island had their ears adapted to hear the music of the spheres,† which always played at certain periods, and the court was now prepared to bear their part in whatever instruments they most excelled.

In our journey toward Lagado, the capital city, his majesty ordered that the island should stop over certain towns and villages, whence he might receive the petitions of his subjects. To this purpose several packthreads were let down, with small weights at the bottom. On these packthreads the people strung their petitions, which mounted up directly, like the scraps of paper fastened by schoolboys at the end of the string that holds their kite. Sometimes we received wine and victuals from below, which were drawn up by pulleys.

The knowledge that I had in mathematics gave me great assistance in acquiring their speech, which depended much upon that science and music; and in the latter I was not unskilled. Their ideas are always expressed in terms of lines and figures. If they would, for example, praise the beauty of a woman, or any other animal, they describe it by rhombs, circles, parallelograms, ellipses, and other geometrical terms, or by words of art drawn from music, needless here to repeat. I observed in the king's kitchen all sorts of mathematical and musical instruments, after the figures of which they cut up the joints that were served to his majesty's table.

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* Swift disliked the musical fashions of his time.

† The planets were supposed to make music, inaudible to human ears, by their perfectly rhythmic movement through space.

Their houses are very ill-built, without one right angle in any apartment. This defect arises from the contempt they bear to practical geometry, which they despise as vulgar and mechanical. The instructions they give are too refined for the intellects of their workmen, who constantly make mistakes. They are clever enough in making diagrams on paper and in using ruler and compass; but in the common actions of life I have never seen a more clumsy, awkward, or unhandy people. They are perplexed in their ideas on all subjects except mathematics and music. They are poor reasoners and have neither imagination nor fancy.

These people are always in a state of anxiety. Their fears arise from their dread of several changes in the heavenly bodies. For instance, they fear that the earth, by the continual approaches of the sun toward it, must, in course of time, be absorbed, or swallowed up. The face of the sun will, by degrees, cease to give light to the world. The earth very narrowly escaped a brush from the tail of the last comet, which would have reduced it to ashes; and the next, which they have calculated for one-and-thirty years hence, will probably destroy us.

They are so alarmed by these and other fears that they can neither sleep quietly in their beds nor have any relish for the common pleasures and amusements of life. When they meet an acquaintance in the morning, the first question is about the sun's health, how he looked at his setting and rising, and what hopes they have to avoid the stroke of the approaching comet. This conversation they are apt to run into with the same temper that boys discover in delighting to hear terrible stories of spirits and hobgoblins, which they greedily listen to and dare not go to bed for fear.

The women of the island are very lively and exceedingly fond of strangers; whereof there is always a considerable number from the continent below, attending at court, either upon affairs of the several towns and corporations, or their own particular occasions. Among these, the ladies choose their gallants; but the vexation is that they act with too much ease and security; for the husband is always so wrapped in thought that the mistress and lover may proceed to the greatest familiarities before his face, if he be but provided with paper and pencil and without his flapper at his side.

The wives and daughters lament their confinement to the island, although I think it the most delicious spot of ground in the world. Although they live here in the greatest plenty and magnificence, and are allowed to do whatever they please, they long to see the world and take the diversions of the metropolis; which they are not allowed to do without a particular license from the king. This is not easy to be obtained, because the people of quality have found, by frequent experience, how hard it is to persuade their women to return from below. I was told that a great court lady, who had several children, wife of the prime minister, the richest subject in the kingdom, a very graceful person, extremely fond of her, who lives in the finest palace of the island, went down to Lagado on the pretense of health and hid herself for several months, till the king sent a warrant to search for her. She was found in an obscure eating house all in rags, having pawned her clothes to maintain an old deformed footman, who beat her every day. And although her husband received her with all possible kindness and without the least reproach, she soon after contrived to steal down again, with all her jewels, to the same gallant, and has not been heard of since.

In about a month's time I had learned a good deal of their language and was able to answer most of the king's questions, when I had the honor to attend him. His majesty showed not the least curiosity to inquire as to the laws, government, history, religion, or manners of the countries where I had been; but confined his questions to the state of mathematics and received the account I gave him with great contempt and indifference, though often roused by his flapper on each side.

In the course of my stay I discovered many interesting facts about the flying island. It is exactly circular, with a diameter of about four miles and a half. It contains ten thousand acres and is three hundred yards thick. The bottom or under surface, which appears to those who view it below, is one even regular plate of adamant,* shooting up to the height of about two hundred yards. Above it lie the several minerals in their usual order and over all is a coat of rich mold, ten or twelve feet deep. The upper surface slopes down to the center, so that all the dews and rains which fall upon the island run in small rivulets toward the middle, where they are emptied into four large basins, each of about half a mile in circuit and two hundred yards distant from the center. From these basins the water is continually exhaled by the sun in the daytime, which prevents their overflowing. Besides, as it is in the power of the monarch to raise the island above the region of clouds and vapors, he can prevent the falling of dews and rain whenever he pleases.

At the center of the island there is a chasm about fifty yards in diameter, whence the astronomers descend into a large dome, which is therefore called the astronomer's cave, situated at the depth of a hundred yards beneath the upper surface of the adamant. In this cave are twenty lamps, continually burning, which cast a strong light into every part. The place is stored with great variety of astronomical instruments. But the greatest curiosity, upon which the fate of the island depends, is a lodestone* of a huge size, in shape resembling a weaver's shuttle. It is in length six yards and in the thickest part at least three yards over. This magnet is sustained by a very strong axle of adamant passing through its middle, upon which it plays, and is poised so exactly that the weakest hand can turn it.

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* The hardest known stone.

By means of this lodestone, the island is made to rise and fall and move from one place to another. One side of the stone attracts and the other repels. Upon placing the magnet erect, with its attracting end toward the earth, the island descends; but when the repelling extremity points downwards, the island mounts directly upwards. When the position of the stone is oblique, the motion of the island is so too. By this oblique motion the island is conveyed to different parts of the monarch's dominions. When the stone is put parallel to the flat surface of the earth below, the island stands still. It cannot move beyond the extent of the king's dominions below nor can it rise above the height of four miles.

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* A magnet.

If any town should engage in rebellion or mutiny, or refuse to pay the usual tribute, the king has two methods of reducing them to obedience. The first and the mildest course is by keeping the island hovering over such a town and the lands about it, whereby he can deprive them of the benefit of the sun and the rain and consequently afflict the inhabitants with dearth and diseases. If the crime deserve it, they are at the same time pelted from above with great stones, against which they have no defense, but by creeping into cellars or caves, while the roofs of their houses are beaten to pieces. But if they still continue obstinate or offer to raise revolts, he proceeds to the last remedy, by letting the island drop directly upon their heads, which makes a universal destruction both of houses and men. However, this is an extremity to which the prince is seldom driven; neither, indeed, is he willing to put it into execution. For, if the town intended to be destroyed should have in it any tall rocks or high spires or pillars of stone, a sudden fall might endanger the bottom or under surface of the island, which might happen to crack by too great a shock or burst by approaching too near the fires from the houses below, as the backs, both of iron and stone, will often do in our chimneys. All this the people well know and understand how far to carry their obstinacy, where their liberty or property is concerned.

CHAPTER III

THE CITY OF LAGADO AND ITS ACADEMY

ALTHOUGH I was not ill-treated in this island, yet I must confess I thought myself too much neglected; for neither prince nor people appeared to be curious in any part of knowledge, except mathematics and music, wherein I was far their inferior, and upon that account very little regarded. On the other side, after having seen all the curiosities of the island, I was very desirious to leave it, being heartily weary of those people. I never met with such disagreeable companions. I conversed only with women, tradesmen, flappers, and court pages during two months of my abode there.

I had obtained, by hard study, a good degree of knowledge in their language. I was weary of being confined to an island where I received so little attention, and resolved to leave it with the first opportunity.

There was a great lord at court, nearly related to the king, and for that reason alone treated with respect. He was reckoned the most ignorant and stupid person among them. He had performed many services for the crown and was a man of integrity and honor. But he had so ill an ear for music that his enemies reported he had been often known to beat time in the wrong place, neither could his tutors, without extreme difficulty, teach him the most easy forms of mathematics. He was pleased to show me many marks of favor; often did me the honor of a visit; desired to be informed in the affairs of Europe, the laws and customs, the manner and learning of the several countries where I had traveled. He listened to me with great attention and made very wise observations on all that I spoke.

I entreated this illustrious person to intercede in my behalf with his majesty for leave to depart; which he accordingly did, as he was pleased to tell me, with regret.

On the sixteenth of February, I took leave of his majesty and the court. The king made me a present to the value of about two hundred pounds English, and my protector, his kinsman, as much more, together with a letter of recommendation to a friend of his in Lagado, the metropolis. The island being then hovering over a mountain about two miles from it, I was let down from the lowest gallery, in the same manner as I had been taken up.

The continent, as far as it is subject to the monarch of the flying island, passes under the general name of *Balnibarbi;* and the metropolis, as I said before, is called *Lagado*.* I felt some little satisfaction in finding myself on firm ground. I walked to the city, found out the person's house to whom I was recommended, presented my letter from his friend the grandee in the island, and was received with much kindness. This great lord, whose name was Munodi, ordered me an apartment in his own house, where I continued during my stay and was entertained in a most hospitable manner. Lord Munodi, it seemed, had been governor of Lagado, but had been discharged, the people thinking him to be a man of poor understanding.

The next morning after my arrival, he took me in his chariot to see the town, which is about half the bigness of London; but the houses very strangely built and most of them out of repair. The people in the streets walked fast, looked wild, their eyes fixed, and were generally in rags. We passed through one of the town gates and went about three miles into the country, where I saw many laborers working with several sorts of tools in the ground, but was not able to guess what they were about; neither did I observe any expectation either of corn or grass, although the soil appeared to be excellent. I could not forbear wondering at these odd appearances, both in town and country; and I made bold to ask my guide to explain to me what could be meant by so many busy heads, hands, and faces, both in the streets and in the fields, because I did not discover any good effect they produced. On the contrary, I never knew a soil so badly cultivated, houses so ill-contrived and so ruinous, or a people whose faces and dress expressed so much misery and want.*

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* The description of the people of Lagado seems to mean the folk of London in Swift's day, who had all gone mad over schemes to make money by speculation and investment in mines and colonial projects, such as the "South Sea Bubble."

He made no further answer than by telling me that I had not been long enough among them to form a judgment; and that the different nations of the world had different customs. But when we returned to his palace, he asked me how I liked the building, what absurdities I observed, and what quarrel I had with the dress or looks of his domestics. This he might safely do; because everything about him was magnificent, regular, and polite.

I answered, "Your Excellency's prudence, quality, and fortune exempt you from those defects which folly and beggary have produced in others."

"If you will go with me," he said, "to my country house, about twenty miles distant, there will be more leisure for this kind of conversation."

I told his Excellency that I was entirely at his disposal; and accordingly we set out next morning.

During our journey he made me observe the methods used by farmers in managing their lands, which to me were wholly unaccountable; for, except in some very few places, I could not discover one ear of corn or blade of grass. But, in three hours' traveling the scene was wholly altered; we came into a most beautiful country; farmers' houses, at small distances, neatly built; the fields inclosed, containing vineyards, corn grounds, and meadows. Neither do I remember to have seen a more delightful prospect.

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* Excitement over speculation in Swift's time in England made people neglect their regular work in trade or farming.

His Excellency observed my countenance to clear up; he told me with a sigh that there his estate began and would continue the same, till we should come to his house: that his countrymen ridiculed and despised him for managing his affairs no better, and for setting so ill an example to the kingdom; which however was followed by very few, such as were old and wilful and weak, like himself.*

We came at length to the house, which was indeed a noble structure, built according to the best rules of architecture. The fountains, gardens, walks, avenues, and groves were all disposed with exact judgment and taste. I gave due praises to everything that I saw, whereof his Excellency took not the least notice till after supper. Then, there being no third companion, he told me with a very melancholy air that he doubted he must throw down his houses in town and country, to rebuild them after the present mode; destroy all his plantations and cast others into such a form as modern usage required and give the same directions to his tenants, unless he would submit to be blamed for pride, singularity, affectation, ignorance, caprice, and perhaps increase his majesty's displeasure.

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* The Laputians (who represent men of learning) were so interested in abstract things that they despised practical common sense.

He went on to tell me that about forty years ago certain persons went up to Laputa, either upon business or diversion, and after five months came back with a very little smattering in mathematics, but full of new ideas acquired in that airy region. These persons, upon their return, began to dislike the management of everything below and fell into schemes of putting all arts, sciences, languages, and mechanics upon a new footing. To this end they procured a royal patent for erecting an academy in Lagado; and the humor prevailed so strongly among the people that there is not a town of any consequence in the kingdom without such an academy.

In these colleges the professors contrive new rules and methods of agriculture and building and new instruments and tools for all trades and manufactures; whereby, as they undertake one man shall do the work of ten, a palace may be built in a week of materials so durable as to last forever without repair. All the fruits of the earth shall come to maturity at whatever season they think fit to choose and increase a hundredfold more than they do at present. The only inconvenience is that none of these projects are yet brought to perfection, and in the meantime the whole country lies miserably waste, the houses in ruins, and the people without food or clothes.*

As for himself, he was content to go on in the old forms, to live in the house that his ancestors had built and act as they did, in every part of life; that some few other persons of quality and gentry had done the same, but were looked on with an eye of contempt and ill-will, as enemies to art, ignorant and unpatriotic, preferring their own ease and sloth before the general improvement of their country.

In a few days we came back to town and his Excellency recommended me to a friend of his, to bear me company to the grand academy. There I was received very kindly by the warden and made repeated visits for many days. I must have been in five hundred rooms, in each of which an individual, supported by the state, was working on his favorite project.

The first man I saw was of a very meager aspect, with sooty hands and face, his hair and beard long, ragged, and singed in several places. His clothes, shirt, and skin were all of the same color. He had been eight years upon a project for extracting sunbeams out of cucumbers, which were to be put in

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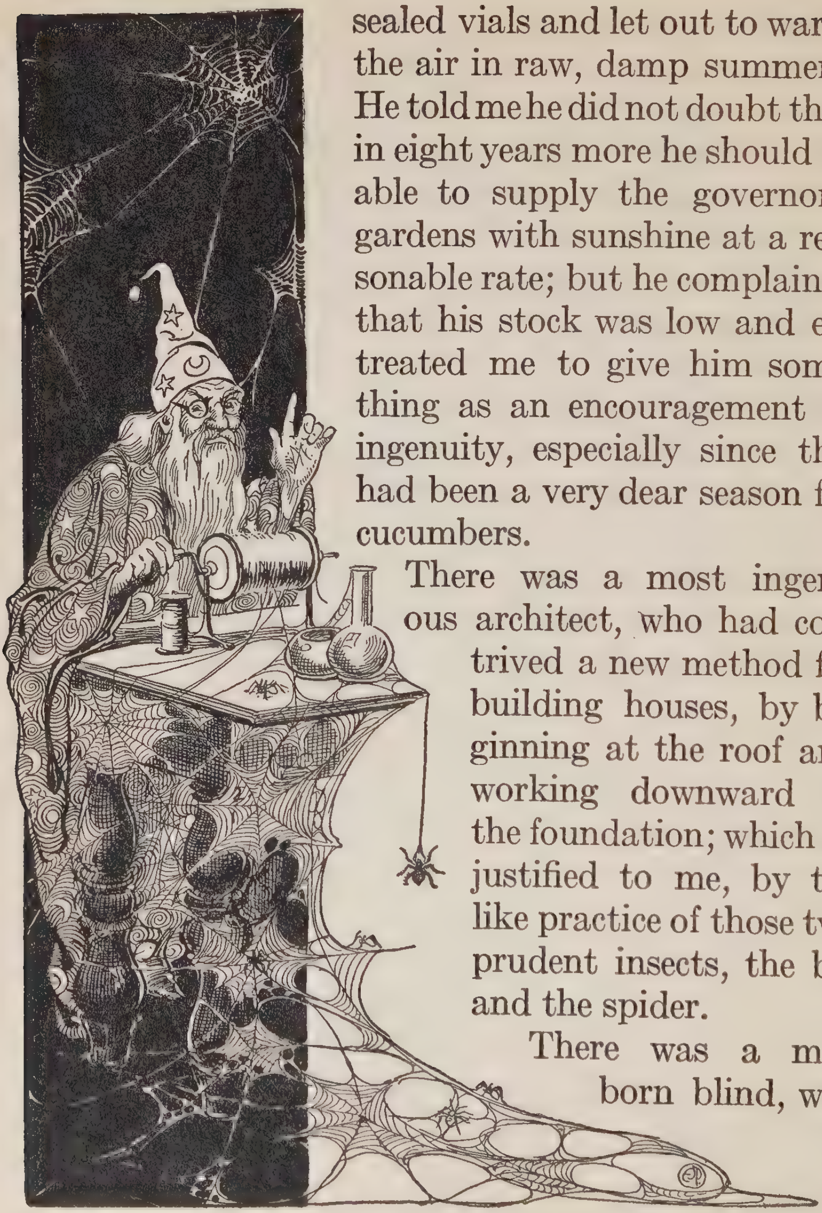
* In Swift's time in England all sorts of schemes for gaining easy wealth by new processes were springing up—companies being formed for every sort of impossible commercial project. People were persuaded to invest in such schemes and then the proposers of them went off with the money.



sealed vials and let out to warm the air in raw, damp summers. He told me he did not doubt that in eight years more he should be able to supply the governor's gardens with sunshine at a reasonable rate; but he complained that his stock was low and entreated me to give him something as an encouragement to ingenuity, especially since this had been a very dear season for cucumbers.

There was a most ingenious architect, who had contrived a new method for building houses, by beginning at the roof and working downward to the foundation; which he justified to me, by the like practice of those two prudent insects, the bee and the spider.

There was a man born blind, who

had several blind apprentices. Their employment was to mix colors for painters, which their master taught them to distinguish by feeling and smelling. It was indeed my misfortune to find them at that time not very perfect in their lessons, and the professor himself happened to be generally mistaken.

I went into another room, where the walls and ceiling were all hung round with cobwebs, except a narrow passage for the artist to go in and out. At my entrance he called aloud to me not to disturb his webs. He lamented the fatal mistake the world had been so long in, of using silkworms, while he had such plenty of domestic insects who infinitely excelled the former, because they understood how to weave, as well as spin. And he proposed further, that by employing spiders, the charge of dyeing silks should be wholly saved. He showed me a vast number of flies most beautifully colored, wherewith he fed his spiders, assuring us that the webs take a color from them. As he had them of all hues, he hoped to fit everybody's fancy, as soon as he could find proper food for the flies, of certain gums, oils, and other glutinous matter, to give strength to the threads.

One illustrious person more is called among them the "Universal Artist." He told us that he had been thirty years employing his thoughts for the improvement of human life. He had two large rooms full of wonderful curiosities and fifty men at work. Some were condensing air into a dry, tangible substance; others softening marble for pillows and pincushions; others petrifying the hoofs of a living horse, to preserve them from foundering. The artist himself was busy upon two great designs. The first, to sow land with chaff; the other by a mixture of gums, minerals, and vegetables, outwardly applied, to prevent the growth of wool upon two young lambs. He hoped, in a reasonable time, to breed naked sheep all over the kingdom.

We crossed a walk to the other part of the academy, where classes met under the charge of professors. The first professor that I saw was in a very large room, with forty pupils about him. Seeing me look earnestly upon a frame which took up the greatest part of the length and breadth of the room, he said, "Everyone knows how laborious the usual method is of attaining to arts and sciences. By this contrivance, the most ignorant person, at a reasonable charge, and with a little bodily labor, might write books in philosophy, poetry, politics, laws, mathematics, and theology, without the least assistance from genius or study." He then led me to the frame about the sides whereof all his pupils stood in ranks.

It was twenty feet square, placed in the middle of the room. The surface was composed of several bits of wood, some larger than others. They were all linked together by slender wires. These bits of wood were covered, on every square, with paper pasted on them; and on these papers were written all the words of their language, in their several moods, tenses, and declensions; but without any order. The professor then desired me to observe; for he was going to set his engine at work.

The pupils, at his command, took each of them hold of an iron handle, whereof there were forty fixed round the edges of the frame; and giving them a sudden turn, the whole position of the words was entirely changed. He then commanded six-and-thirty of the lads to read the several lines softly, as they appeared upon the frame; and where they found three or four words together that might make part of a sentence, they dictated to the four remaining boys, who were scribes. This work was repeated three or four times; and at every turn the engine was so contrived that the words shifted into new places, as the square bits of wood moved upside down.

Six hours a day the young students were employed in this labor; and the professor showed me several volumes in large folio already collected of broken sentences, which he intended to piece together, and out of those rich materials to give the world a complete body of all arts and sciences.

We next went to the school of languages, where three professors sat in consultation upon improving their own tongue.

The first project was to shorten speech, by cutting long words into short ones and leaving out verbs and participles; because, in reality, all things imaginable are but nouns.

The other project was a scheme for entirely abolishing all words whatsoever; and this was urged as a great advantage in point of health as well as brevity. For it is plain that every word we speak is, in some degree, a weakening of our lungs; and consequently contributes to the shortening of our lives. Since words are only names for things, it would be more convenient for all men to carry about them such things as were necessary to express a particular business they are to speak on. And this invention would certainly have taken place, if the women had not threatened to raise a rebellion unless they might be allowed the liberty to speak with their tongues after the manner of their forefathers.

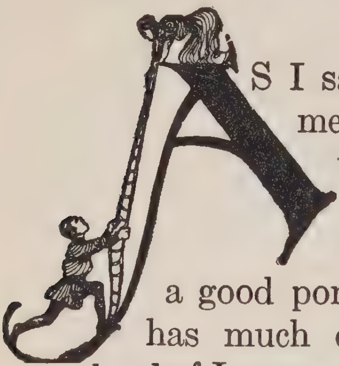
The new scheme has only this inconvenience, that if a man's business be very great and of various kinds, he must be obliged to carry a greater bundle of things upon his back, unless he can afford one or two strong servants to attend him. I have often beheld two of these sages almost sinking under the weight of their packs, like peddlers among us. When they met in the street, they would lay down their loads, open their sacks, and hold conversation for an hour together; then put up their implements, help each other to resume their burdens, and take their leave.

But for short conversations, a man may carry implements in his pockets and under his arms, enough to supply him; and in his house he cannot be at a loss. Therefore the room where company meet who practice this art, is full of all things necessary for this artificial conversation.

I was at the mathematical school, where the master taught his pupils after a method scarcely imaginable to us in Europe. The proposition and demonstration were fairly written on a thin wafer, with a special sort of ink. This the student was to swallow upon a fasting stomach and for three days following eat nothing but bread and water. As the wafer digested, the ink mounted to his brain, bearing the proposition along with it. But success has not hitherto been attained, partly by some error in the making of the ink and partly by the perverseness of the lads, to whom this pellet is so nauseous that they generally refuse to swallow it; or, if they do, fail to go without food as long as the prescription requires.

CHAPTER IV

TEN DAYS IN THE LAND OF MAGIC



AS I saw nothing in Lagado to make me wish to stay longer, I began to think of returning home to England. About a hundred fifty miles from Lagado there is a good port on the Pacific Ocean, which has much commerce with the great island of Luggnagg, situated southeast of Japan. There is a strict alliance between the Japanese emperor and the king of Luggnagg, which affords frequent opportunities of sailing from one island to the other. I determined therefore to direct my course this way, in order to return to Europe. I hired two mules, with a guide to show me the way and carry my small baggage.

When I arrived at the port, there was no ship in the harbor bound for Luggnagg nor likely to be for some time. I soon fell into some acquaintance, and was very hospitably received. A gentleman of distinction said to me that since the ships bound for Luggnagg could not be ready in less than a month, it might be no disagreeable amusement for me to take a trip to the little island of Glubbdubdrib, about five leagues off to the southwest. He offered himself and a friend to accompany me and that I should be provided with a small convenient bark for the voyage.

Glubbdubdrib, as near as I can interpret the word, signifies the island of sorcerers or magicians. It is about one third as large as the Isle of Wight and extremely fruitful: it is governed by the head of a certain tribe, who are all magicians. This prince has a noble palace and a park of three thousand acres, surrounded by a wall of hewn stone twenty feet high. In this park are several small inclosures for cattle, corn, and gardening.

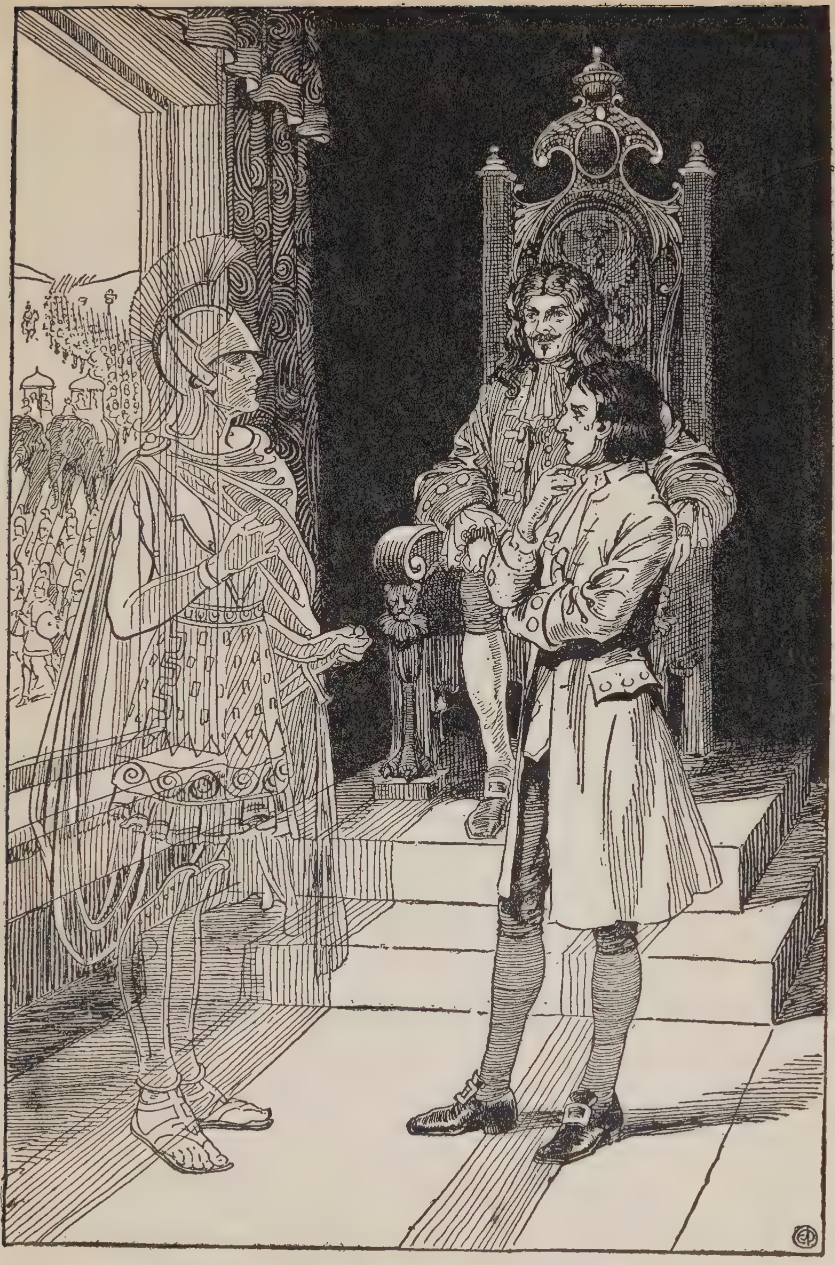
The governor and his family are served and attended by domestics of a kind somewhat unusual. By his skill in magic he has a power of calling whom he pleases from the dead and commanding their service for twenty-four hours, but no longer; nor can he call the same persons up again in less than three months. except upon very extraordinary occasions.

When we arrived at this island, one of the gentlemen who accompanied me went to the governor and desired admittance for a stranger, who came on purpose to have the honor of attending on his highness. This was immediately granted and we all three entered the gate of the palace between two rows of guards, armed and dressed after a very antique manner. Something in their faces made my flesh creep with a horror that I cannot express.

We passed through several apartments, between servants of the same sort, ranked on each side as before, till we came to the chamber of presence; where we were permitted to sit on three stools, near the lowest step of his Highness's throne. He desired me to give him some account of my travels; and, to let me see that I should be treated without ceremony, he dismissed all his attendants with a turn of his finger; at which, to my great astonishment, they vanished in an instant, like visions in a dream when we awake on a sudden.

I could not recover myself in some time, till the governor assured me that I should receive no hurt: and observing my two companions to be under no concern, who had been often entertained in the same manner, I began to take courage, and related to his Highness a short history of my several adventures. I had the honor to dine with the governor, where a new set of ghosts served up the meat and waited at table. I now observed myself to be less terrified than I had been in the morning.

We stayed in the island for ten days and I soon grew so accustomed to the sight of spirits that after the third or fourth time they gave me no emotion at all; or if I had any fears left, my curiosity prevailed over them. His Highness the governor ordered me to call up whatever persons I might choose to name



Alexander was called up into the room

and in whatever numbers, among all the dead from the beginning of the world to the present time and command them to answer any questions I should think fit to ask; with this condition, that my question be confined within the compass of the times they lived in. And one thing I might depend upon, that they would certainly tell me the truth, for lying was a talent of no use in the lower world.

I made my humble acknowledgments to his Highness for so great a favor. We were in a chamber whence there was a fair prospect into the park. And because my first inclination was to be entertained with scenes of pomp and magnificence, I desired to see Alexander the Great at the head of his army, just after the battle of Arbela, which, upon a motion of the governor's finger, immediately appeared in a large field, under the window where we stood. Alexander was called up into the room; it was with great difficulty I understood his Greek and had but little of my own. He assured me upon his honor that he was not poisoned, but died of a bad fever by excessive drinking.

Next I saw Hannibal* passing the Alps and then Julius Cæsar and Pompey at the head of their troops, just ready to engage. I saw Cæsar in his last great triumph. I desired that the senate of Rome might appear before me, in one large chamber and a modern parliament in another. The first seemed to

* A general of Carthage who fought against Rome.

be an assembly of heroes; the other a knot of peddlers, pickpockets, highwaymen, and bullies.

The governor, at my request, gave the sign for Cæsar and Brutus* to advance toward us. I was struck with a profound veneration at the sight of Brutus and could easily discover the highest virtue, the greatest courage and firmness of mind, the truest love of his country, and general benevolence of mankind, in every feature of his countenance. I observed, with much pleasure, that these two persons were on good terms with each other; and Cæsar freely confessed to me that the greatest actions of his life were not equal to the glory of taking it away. I had the honor to have much conversation with Brutus.

Vast numbers of illustrious persons were called up to gratify my desire to see the world in every period of antiquity placed before me. I chiefly fed mine eyes with beholding the destroyers of tyrants and usurpers and the restorers of liberty to oppressed and injured nations.

I set apart one day to see those ancients who were most renowned for wit and learning. I proposed that Homer† and Aristotle‡ might appear. Homer was the taller and comelier person of the two, walked very erect for one of his age, and his eyes were the most quick and piercing I ever beheld. Aristotle stooped much and made use of a staff. His visage was meager, his hair lank and thin, and his voice hollow.

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* Brutus was a leader in the plot to kill Cæsar.

† Homer was the poet who wrote the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. He was said to be blind.

‡ Aristotle was an ancient Greek philosopher and scientist.

The last of my stay I employed in seeing some of the modern dead, who had made the greatest figure for two or three hundred years past, in our own and other countries of Europe; and having been always a great admirer of old illustrious families, I desired that the governor would call up a dozen or two of kings, with their ancestors, in order, for eight or nine generations. But my disappointment was grievous and unexpected. For, instead of a long train with royal diadems, I saw in one family two fiddlers, three spruce courtiers, and an Italian prelate; in another, a barber, an abbot, and two cardinals. I have too great a veneration for crowned heads to dwell any longer on so nice a subject. But as to counts, marquises, dukes, earls, and the like, I found myself able to trace to their sources the particular features by which certain families are distinguished. I could plainly discover whence one family derives a long chin; why a second has abounded with knaves for two generations and fools for two more; why a third happened to be crackbrained and a fourth to be sharpers; how cruelty, falsehood, and cowardice grew to be characteristics by which certain families are distinguished as much as by their coats of arms.

I found how the world had been misled by writers to ascribe the greatest exploits in war to cowards; the wisest counsel to fools; sincerity to flatterers; Roman virtue to betrayers of their country; piety to atheists; truth to informers; how many innocent and excellent persons had been condemned to death or banishment.

CHAPTER V

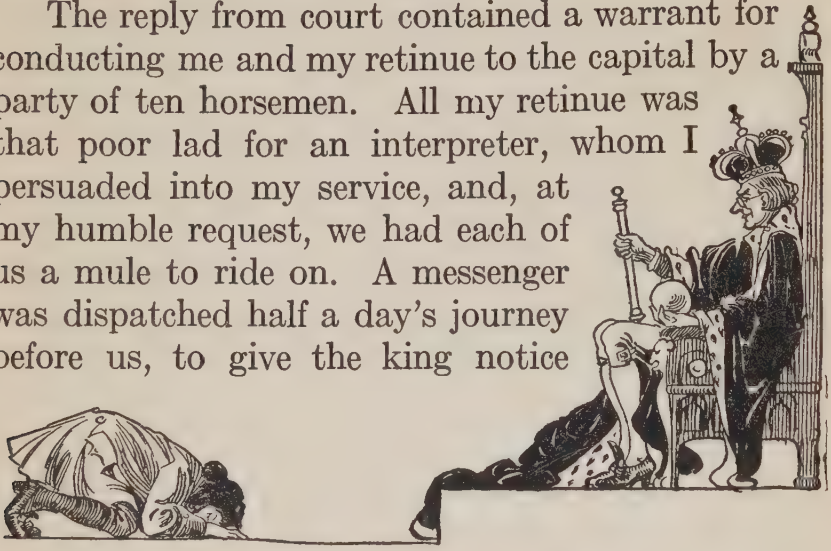
TO LUGGNAGG, AND HOME AT LAST

SOON after my return from this magic island, I found a ship ready to sail for Luggnagg. The voyage took one month. On arrival, I was examined very strictly by the customs officer. I made my story sound as probable and reasonable as I could; but I thought it necessary to disguise my country and call myself a Hollander; because my intentions were for Japan and I knew that the Dutch were the only Europeans permitted to enter into that kingdom. I therefore told the officer that, having been shipwrecked on the coast of Balnibarbi, and cast on a rock, I was received up into Laputa, or the flying island (of which he had often heard), and was now endeavoring to get to Japan, whence I might return to my own country.

The officer said I must be confined till he could receive orders from court, for which he would write immediately. I was carried to a convenient lodging, with a sentry placed at the door; however, I had the liberty of a large garden and was treated with humanity enough, being maintained all the time at the king's charge.

I hired a young man, who came in the same ship, to be an interpreter: he was a native of Luggnagg, but had lived some years at Maldonada and was a perfect master of both languages.

The reply from court contained a warrant for conducting me and my retinue to the capital by a party of ten horsemen. All my retinue was that poor lad for an interpreter, whom I persuaded into my service, and, at my humble request, we had each of us a mule to ride on. A messenger was dispatched half a day's journey before us, to give the king notice of my approach; and to desire that his majesty would please to appoint a day and hour, when it would be his gracious pleasure that I might have the honor to lick the dust before his footstool.



This is the court style and I found it to be more than matter of form: for, upon my admittance two days after my arrival, I was commanded to crawl upon my belly and lick the floor as I advanced; but, on account of my being a stranger, care was taken to have it made so clean that the dust was not offensive. However, this was a peculiar grace, not allowed to any but persons of the highest rank, when they desire an admittance. Nay, sometimes the floor is strewed with dust on purpose, when the person to be admitted happens to have powerful enemies at court; and I have seen a great lord with his mouth so crammed that when he had crept to the proper distance from the throne, he was not able to speak a word.

When the king has a mind to put any of his nobles to death in a gentle indulgent manner, he commands the floor to be strewed with a certain brown powder of a deadly composition, which, being licked up, infallibly kills him in twenty-four hours.

When I had crept to within four yards of the throne, I raised myself gently upon my knees, and then, striking my forehead seven times against the ground, I pronounced the following words, as they had been taught me the night before: *Inckpling gloffthrobb squw tserumm blhiop mlashnalt zwin tnodbalkuff hsthiophad kurdlubhasht.* This is the compliment, established by the laws of the land, for all persons admitted to the king's presence. It may be rendered into English thus: "May your celestial majesty outlive the sun eleven moons and a half!"*

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* Swift means to show how people who wish to succeed at court have to humble themselves and flatter the king.

To this the king returned some answer. Although I could not understand, yet I replied, as I had been directed: *Flute drin yalerick dwuldom prtasraa mirpush*, which properly signifies, "My tongue is in the mouth of my friend." By this expression was meant that I desired leave to bring my interpreter; whereupon the young man already mentioned was accordingly introduced, by whose intervention I answered as many questions as his majesty could put in about an hour. I spoke in the Balnibarbian tongue and my interpreter delivered my meaning in that of Luggnagg.

The king was much delighted with my company and ordered his *bliffmarklub*, or high chamberlain, to appoint a lodging in the court for me and my interpreter, with a daily allowance for my table and a large piece of gold for my common expenses.

I stayed three months in this country, out of perfect obedience to his majesty, who was pleased highly to favor me. At last, in May, 1709, I took a solemn leave of his majesty and all my friends. The voyage to Japan took fifteen days. I had a letter from the king of Luggnagg to the emperor of Japan, which I showed the customs officers on landing.

Hearing of this letter, the magistrates of the port town provided me with carriages and servants and bore my charges to Yedo, the chief city, where I was admitted to an audience, and delivered my letter. It was opened with great ceremony and explained to the emperor by an interpreter; who then gave me notice, by his majesty's order, that I should signify my request, and whatever it were, it should be granted, for the sake of his royal brother of Luggnagg.

This interpreter was a person employed to transact affairs with the Hollanders; he therefore repeated his majesty's commands in Dutch, which he spoke perfectly well. I answered, as I had before determined, that I was a Dutch merchant, shipwrecked in a very remote country, whence I had traveled by sea and land to Japan; where I knew my countrymen often traded, and with some of these I hoped to get an opportunity of returning into Europe. I therefore most humbly entreated his royal favor to give order that I should be conducted in safety to Nangasac. To my great joy, he agreed. Some troops being at that time on the march to Nangasac, the commanding officer had orders to convey me safe thither.

At Nangasac, after a long and troublesome journey, I fell into the company of some Dutch sailors. I had lived long in Holland, pursuing my studies at Leyden, and I spoke Dutch well. The seamen soon knew whence I came last; they were curious to inquire into my voyages and course of life. I made up a story as short and probable as I could, but concealed the greatest part. I knew many persons in Holland; I was able to invent names for my parents, whom I pretended to be obscure people in the province of Guelderland. I would have given the captain what he pleased to ask for my voyage to Holland; but, understanding I was a surgeon, he was contented to take half the usual rate, on condition that I would serve him in the way of my calling.

Nothing happened worth mentioning in this voyage. We sailed with a fair wind to the Cape of Good Hope, where we stayed only to take in fresh water. In about ten months we arrived safe at Amsterdam, whence I soon after set sail for England, and saw once more my native country, after an absence of five years and six months complete. I went straight to Redriff, where I arrived the same day, at two in the afternoon, and found my wife and family in good health.

CHAPTER VI

THE COUNTRY OF THE VIRTUOUS HOUYHNHNMS

AFTER staying at home with my wife and children, in a very happy condition, I accepted an offer made me to be captain of the merchant ship "Adventure." We set sail from Portsmouth in September.

During the voyage, several men died in my ship, so that I was forced to get recruits out of Barbadoes* and the Leeward Islands,* where I touched, by the direction of the merchants who employed me. I had soon too much cause to repent of this; for I found afterwards that most of them had been pirates. I had fifty hands on board and my orders were that I should trade with the natives in the South Sea and make what discoveries I could.

These rogues, whom I had picked up, made my other men discontented, and they all formed a plot to seize the ship and secure me. One morning, rushing into my cabin, they bound me hand and foot, threatening to throw me overboard, if I offered to stir. I told them I was their prisoner and would submit. This they made me swear to do and then they unbound me, only fastening one of my legs with a chain, near my bed. They placed a sentry at my door with his piece loaded, who was commanded to shoot me dead if I attempted my liberty. They sent me down victuals and drink and took the government of the ship to themselves.

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* Islands in the West Indies.

Their design was to turn pirates and plunder the Spaniards, which they could not do till they got more men. But first they resolved to sell the goods in the ship and then go to Madagascar for recruits, several among them having died since my confinement. They sailed many weeks, but I knew not what course they took, being kept a close prisoner in my cabin and expecting nothing less than to be murdered, as they often threatened me.

Finally they took me from the cabin and forced me into the longboat. They let me put on my best suit of clothes, which were as good as new, and take a small bundle of linen, but no arms, except my sword; and they were so civil as not to search my pockets, into which I conveyed what money I had, with some other little necessaries. They rowed about a league* and then set me down on a strand. I desired them to tell me what country it was. They all swore that they knew no more than myself; but said that the

* A league is three miles.

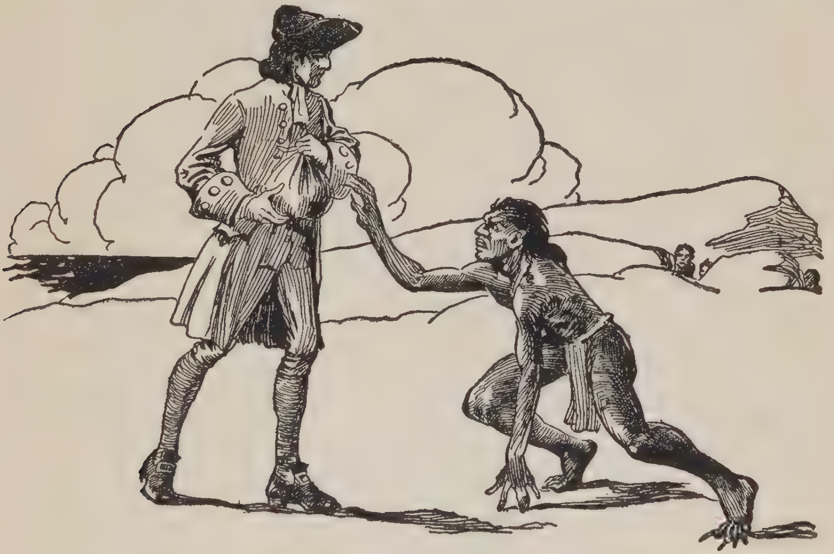
captain (as they called him) was resolved, after they had sold the cargo, to get rid of me in the first place where they could discover land. They pushed off immediately, advising me to make haste for fear of being overtaken by the tide, and so bade me farewell.

In this desolate condition I went forward and soon got upon firm ground, where I sat down on a bank to rest myself and consider what I had best do. When I was a little refreshed, I went up into the country, resolving to yield myself to the first savages I should meet and purchase my life from them by some bracelets, glass rings, and other toys, with which sailors usually provide themselves in those voyages, and whereof I had some.

The land was divided by long rows of trees, not regularly planted, but naturally growing; there was plenty of grass and several fields of oats. I walked very cautiously, for fear of being surprised, or suddenly shot with an arrow from behind or on either side. I fell into a beaten road, where I saw many tracks of human feet and some of cows, but most of horses. At last I beheld several animals in a field, and one or two of the same kind sitting on trees. Their shape was very singular and deformed, which a little disturbed me, so that I lay down behind a thicket to observe them better.

These creatures, naked, as I expected savages to be, had skins of a brown buff color, and their hair and beards were some of them frizzled, others lank.

They climbed high trees as nimbly as a squirrel, for they had strong pointed, hooked claws before and behind. They would often spring and bound and leap with great agility. The females were not so large as the males; they had long lank hair on their heads, but none on their faces. Upon the whole, I never beheld, in all my travels, so disagreeable an animal or one against which I naturally conceived so strong a dislike. Thinking I had seen enough, I got up and pursued the beaten road, hoping that it might direct me to the cabin of some Indian.



I had not gone far when I met one of these creatures full in my way and coming up directly to me. The ugly monster, when he saw me, distorted several ways every feature of his visage and stared, as at an object he had never seen before; then approaching nearer, lifted up his fore paw, whether out of curiosity or mischief I could not tell. I drew my sword and gave him a good blow with the flat side of it, for I durst not strike with the edge, fearing the inhabitants might be provoked against me if they should come to know that I had killed or maimed any of their cattle. When the beast felt the smart, he drew back and roared so loud that a herd of at least forty came flocking about me from the next field, howling and making hideous faces; but I ran to the body of a tree, and, leaning my back against it, kept them off by waving my sword.

In the midst of this distress I observed them all to run away on a sudden as fast as they could; at which I ventured to leave the tree and pursue the road, wondering what it was that could put them into this fright. But looking on my left hand I saw a horse walking softly in the field, which was the cause of their flight. The horse started a little when he came near me, but soon recovering himself, looked full in my face with wonder. He viewed my hands and feet, walking round me several times. I would have pursued my journey, but he placed himself directly in the way, yet looking very mild and never offering the least violence.

We stood gazing at each other for some time; at last I took the boldness to reach my hand toward his neck with a design to stroke it, using the common style and whistle of jockeys, when they are going to handle a strange horse. But this animal seemed to receive my civilities with disdain, shook his head, and bent his brows, softly raising up his right forefoot to remove my hand. Then he neighed three or four times, but in so different a tone that I almost began to think he was speaking to himself, in some language of his own.

While he and I were thus employed, another horse came up. They gently struck each other's right hoof before, neighing several times by turns and varying the sound. They went some paces off, as if it were to confer together, walking side by side, backward and forward, like persons deliberating upon some affair of weight, but often turning their eyes toward me, as it were to watch that I might not escape.

I was amazed to see such actions and behavior in brute beasts; and concluded with myself that if the inhabitants of this country possessed a like degree of reason, they must needs be the wisest people upon earth. This thought gave me so much comfort that I resolved to go forward until I could discover some house or village, or meet with any of the natives, leaving the two horses to talk together as they pleased. But the first, who was a dapple gray, observing me to steal off, neighed after me in so expressive a tone that I fancied myself to understand what he meant. I turned back and came near to him, to expect his further commands, concealing my fear as much as I could.

The two horses came up close to me, looking with great earnestness upon my face and hands. The gray steed rubbed my hat all round with his right fore hoof and unsettled it so much that I was forced to adjust it better by taking it off and putting it on again, whereat both he and his companion (who was a brown bay) appeared to be much surprised. The latter felt the lappet of my coat, and finding it to hang loose about me, they both looked with new signs of wonder. He stroked my right hand, seeming to admire the softness and color; but he squeezed it so hard between his hoof and his pastern that I was forced to roar; after which they both touched me with all possible tenderness. They were under great perplexity about my shoes and stockings, which they felt very often, neighing to each other, and using various gestures.

Upon the whole the behavior of these animals was so orderly, sensible, and clever, that I at last concluded they must needs be magicians, who had thus changed their forms, and, seeing a stranger in the way, resolved to divert themselves with him. Perhaps they were really amazed at the sight of a man so very different in dress, feature, and complexion from those who might probably live in so remote a climate.

Upon the strength of this reasoning I ventured to address them in the following manner: "Gentlemen, if you be magicians, as I have good cause to believe, you can understand any language; therefore I make bold to let your worships know that I am a poor distressed Englishman, driven by misfortune upon your coast. I entreat one of you to let me ride upon his back, as if he were a real horse, to some house or village where I can be relieved. In return of which favor, I will make you a present of this knife and bracelet"; taking them out of my pocket.

The two creatures stood silent while I spoke, seeming to listen with great attention; and when I had ended, they neighed frequently toward each other, as if they were engaged in serious conversation. I plainly observed that their words might, with little pains, be resolved into an alphabet more easily than the Chinese.

I could frequently distinguish the word *Yahoo*, which was repeated by each of them several times; and although it was impossible for me to guess what it meant, yet, while the two horses were busy in conversation, I endeavored to practice this word upon my tongue. As soon as they were silent, I boldly pronounced *Yahoo*, in a loud voice, imitating at the same time, as near as I could, the neighing of a horse. They were both visibly surprised and the gray repeated the same word twice, as if he meant to teach the right accent; wherein I spoke after him as well as I could and found myself to improve every time.

Then the bay tried me with a second word, much harder to be pronounced; but reducing it to the English letters it may be spelt thus—*Houyhnhnm.* (I later learned that in their language this word meant a horse.) I did not succeed in this so well as in the former; but after two or three further trials, I had better fortune, and they both appeared amazed at my ability.

After some further discourse, the two friends took their leaves with the same compliment of striking each other's hoof and the gray made me signs that I should walk before him. I thought it prudent to comply, till I could find a better director. When I offered to slacken my pace, he would cry *hhuun, hhuun.* I guessed his meaning and gave him to understand, as well as I could, that I was weary and not able to walk faster; upon which he would stand awhile to let me rest.

After having traveled about three miles, we came to a long kind of building, made of timber stuck in the ground and wattled across; the roof was low and covered with straw. I now began to be a little comforted; and took out some toys, which travelers usually carry for presents to the savage Indians of America, and other parts, in hopes the people of the house would be thereby encouraged to receive me kindly.

The horse made me a sign to go in first; it was a large room with a smooth clay floor and a rack and manger, extending the whole length on one side. There were three nags and two mares, not eating, but some of them sitting down upon their haunches, which I very much wondered at; but wondered more to see the rest employed in domestic business. These seemed but ordinary cattle; however, this confirmed my first opinion, that a people who could so far civilize brute animals must needs excel in wisdom all the nations of the world. The gray came in just after and thereby prevented any ill-treatment which the others might have given me. He neighed to them several times in a style of authority and received answers.

Beyond this room there were three others, reaching the length of the house, to which you passed through three doors, opposite to each other, in the manner of a vista; we went through the second room toward the third. Here the gray walked in first, beckoning me to attend. I waited in the second room and got ready my presents for the master and mistress of the house: they were two knives, three bracelets of false pearls, a small looking-glass, and a bead necklace. The horse neighed three or four times and I waited to hear some answers in a human voice, but I heard no other returns than in the same dialect, only one or two a little shriller than his. I began to think that this house must belong to some person of great note among them, because there appeared so much ceremony before I could gain admittance. But that a man of quality should be served all by horses was beyond my comprehension; I feared my brain was disturbed by my sufferings and misfortunes.

I roused myself and looked about me in the room where I was left alone; this was furnished like the first, only after a more elegant manner. I rubbed my eyes often, but the same objects still occurred. I pinched my arms and sides to awake myself, hoping that I might be in a dream. I then concluded that all these appearances could be nothing else but magic. But I had no time to pursue these reflections; for the gray horse came to the door and made me a sign to follow him into the third room, where I saw a very comely mare, together with a colt and a foal, sitting on their haunches upon mats of straw, not unartfully made, and perfectly neat and clean.

The mare, soon after my entrance, rose from her mat, and coming up close, after having nicely observed my hands and face, gave me a most contemptuous look. She turned to the horse and I heard the word *Yahoo* often repeated betwixt them. The meaning of this word I could not then comprehend, although it was the first I had learned to pronounce; but I was soon better informed, to my everlasting mortification; for the horse, beckoning to me with his head, and repeating the *hhuun, hhuun,* as he did upon the road, which I understood was to attend him, led me out into a kind of court, where was another building at some distance from the house. Here we entered and I saw three of those detestable creatures which I first met after my landing, feeding upon roots and the flesh of some animals. They were all tied by the neck with strong withes fastened to a beam; they held their food between the claws of their forefeet and tore it with their teeth.

The master horse ordered a sorrel nag, one of his servants, to untie the largest of these animals and take him into the yard. The beast and I were brought close together, and our countenances diligently compared both by master and servant, who thereupon repeated several times the word *Yahoo*. My horror and astonishment are not to be described, when I observed, in this abominable animal, a perfect human figure: the face of it indeed was flat and broad, the nose depressed, the lips large, and the mouth wide; but these differences are common to all savage nations. The forefoot of the *Yahoo* differed from my hands in nothing else but the length of the nails, the coarseness and brownness of the palms, and the hairiness on the backs. There was the same likeness between our feet and in every part of our bodies, except as to hairiness and color.

The sorrel nag now offered me a root, which I refused as civilly as I could. He afterwards showed me a wisp of hay and a fetlock full of oats; but I shook my head, to signify that neither of these was food for me. And indeed I now feared that I must absolutely starve, if I did not get to some of my own species; for as to those *Yahoos*, although there were few greater lovers of mankind at that time than myself, yet I confess I never saw any being so detestable on all accounts; and the more I came near them the more hateful they grew, while I stayed in that country. This the master horse observed by my behavior and therefore sent the *Yahoo* back to his kennel.

He then put his forehoof to his mouth, at which I was much surprised, although he did it with ease, and with a motion that appeared perfectly natural; and made other signs to know what I would eat. I could not return him such an answer as he was able to understand; and if he had understood me, I did not see how it was possible to contrive any way for finding myself nourishment. While we were thus engaged, I observed a cow passing by, whereupon I pointed to her and expressed a desire to go and milk her. This had its effect; for he led me back into the house, and ordered a mare-servant to open a room, where a good store of milk lay in earthen and wooden vessels, after a very orderly and cleanly manner. She gave me a large bowlful, of which I drank very heartily, and found myself well refreshed.

About noon, I saw coming toward the house a kind of vehicle drawn like a sledge by four *Yahoos*. There was in it an old steed, who seemed to be of quality; he alighted with his hind feet forward, having by accident got a hurt in his left forefoot. He came to dine with our horse, who received him with great civility. They dined in the best room and had oats boiled in milk for the second course, which the old horse ate warm, but the rest cold. Their mangers were placed circular in the middle of the room and divided into several partitions, round which they sat on their haunches, upon mats of straw. In the middle was a large rack, with angles answering to every partition of the manger; so that each horse and mare ate its own hay and its own mash of oats and milk, with much decency and regularity. The behavior of the young colt and foal appeared very modest and that of the master and mistress extremely cheerful and polite to their guest. The gray ordered me to stand by him; and much discourse passed between him and his friend concerning me, as I found by the stranger often looking on me and the frequent repetition of the word *Yahoo*.

I happened to wear my gloves, which the master gray observing, seemed perplexed, discovering signs of wonder what I had done to my forefeet; he put his hoof three or four times to them, as if he would signify that I should reduce them to their former shape, which I presently did, pulling off both my gloves and putting them into my pocket.

This occasioned further talk and I saw the company were pleased with my behavior, whereof I soon found the good effects. I was ordered to speak the few words I understood; and while they were at dinner, the master taught me the names for oats, milk, fire, water, and some others, which I could readily pronounce after him, having from my youth a great facility in learning languages.

When dinner was done, the master horse took me aside, and by signs and words made me understand the concern he was in that I had nothing to eat. Oats in their tongue are called *hlunnh*. This word I pronounced two or three times; for although I had refused them at first, yet upon second thoughts I considered that I could contrive to make of them a kind of bread, which might be sufficient, with milk, to keep me alive, till I could make my escape to some other country and to creatures of my own species.

The horse immediately ordered a white mare-servant of his family to bring me a good quantity of oats in a sort of wooden tray. These I heated before the fire as well as I could and rubbed them till the husks came off, which I made a shift to winnow from the grain; I ground and beat them between two stones and then took water and made them into a paste or cake, which I toasted at the fire and ate warm with milk. It was at first a very tasteless diet, but grew tolerable with time.

Later I sometimes made shift to catch a rabbit or bird; and I often gathered wholesome herbs, which I boiled and ate as salads with my bread; and now and then, for a rarity, I made a little butter and drank the whey. I was at first at a great loss for salt, but custom soon reconciled me to the want of it.

When it grew toward evening, the master horse ordered a place for me to lodge in; it was but six yards from the house and separated from the stable of the *Yahoos*. Here I got some straw, and covering myself with my own clothes, slept very sound.

CHAPTER VII

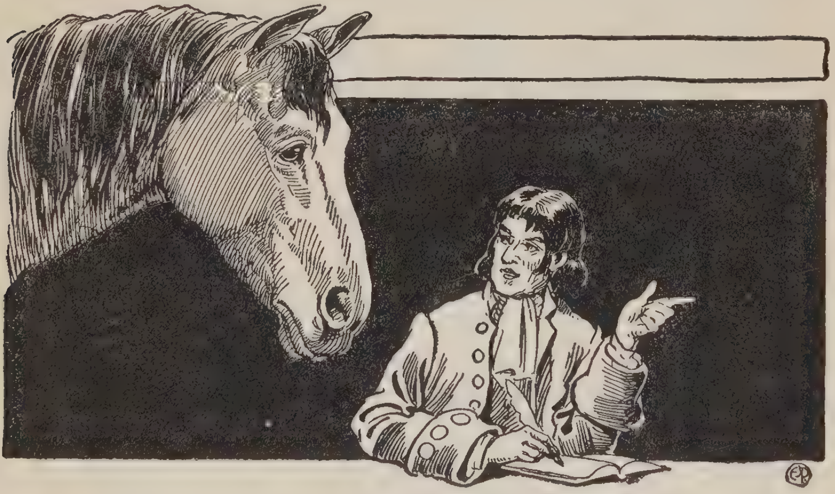
GULLIVER AND THE MASTER HORSE LEARN TO TALK TOGETHER

MY principal endeavor was to learn the language, which my master (for so I shall henceforth call him) and his children and every servant of his house, were desirous to teach me. I pointed to everything and inquired the name of it, which I wrote down in my journal book when I was alone and corrected my bad accent by desiring those of the family to pronounce it often. In this employment a sorrel nag, one of the under servants, was very ready to assist me.

The curiosity and impatience of my master were so great that he spent many hours of his leisure to instruct me. He was convinced that I must be a *Yahoo;* but my teachableness, civility, and cleanliness astonished him; which were qualities altogether opposite to those animals.

He was most perplexed about my clothes, reasoning sometimes with himself, whether they were a part of my body; for I never pulled them off till the family were asleep and got them on before they waked in the morning. My master was eager to learn whence I came and to know my story from my own mouth.

In about ten weeks' time I was able to understand most of his questions; and in three months could give him some tolerable answers. He was extremely curious to know from what part of the country I came and how I was taught to imitate a rational creature; because the *Yahoos* (whom he saw I exactly resembled in my head, hands, and face) were observed to be the most unteachable of all brutes.



I answered: "I came over the sea from a far place, with many others of my own kind, in a great hollow vessel made of the bodies of trees. My companions forced me to land on this coast and then left me to shift for myself." It was with some difficulty, and by the help of many signs, that I brought him to understand me.

He replied that I must needs be mistaken, or that I said the thing which was not, for they have no word in their language to express lying or falsehood. He knew it was impossible that there could be a country beyond the sea or that a parcel of brutes could move a wooden vessel whither they pleased upon water. He was sure no *Houyhnhnms* alive could make such a vessel, nor would trust *Yahoos* to manage it.

I told my master that I was at a loss for expression, but would improve as fast as I could; and hoped, in a short time, I should be able to tell him wonders. He was pleased to direct his own mare, his colt, and foal, and the servants of the family, to take all opportunities of instructing me; and every day, for two or three hours, he was at the same pains himself. Several horses and mares of quality in the neighborhood came often to our house, upon the report spread of a wonderful *Yahoo*, that could speak like a *Houyhnhnm* and seemed, in his words and actions, to discover some glimmerings of reason. These delighted to converse with me: they put many questions and received such answers as I was able to return. By all these advantages I made so great a progress that in five months from my arrival I understood whatever was spoken and could express myself tolerably well.

One day I ventured to tell my master how much I disliked being called by the name of *Yahoo*, an odious animal, for which I had so utter a hatred and contempt. I begged that he would forbear applying that word to me and make the same order in his family and among his friends whom he suffered to see me. To this he graciously consented.

Every day, when I waited on him, besides the trouble he was at in teaching, he would ask me several questions concerning myself, which I answered as well as I could. I told him that I came from a very far country, with about fifty more of my own species; that we traveled upon the seas in a great hollow vessel made of wood and larger than his honor's house. I described the ship to him in the best terms I could, and explained, by the help of my handkerchief displayed, how it was driven forward by the wind. That upon a quarrel among us, I was set on shore on this coast, where I walked forward, without knowing whither, till he delivered me from those wicked *Yahoos*.

He asked me who made the ship and how it was possible that the *Houyhnhnms* of my country would leave it to the management of brutes. My answer was that I durst proceed no further in my relation, unless he would give me his word and honor that he would not be offended and then I would tell him the wonders I had so often promised.

He agreed; and I went on by assuring him that the ship was made by creatures like myself; who, in all the countries I had traveled, as well as in my own, were the only governing animals; and that upon my arrival hither, I was as much astonished to see the *Houyhnhnms* act like reasonable beings, as he or his friends could be, in finding some marks of reason in a creature he was pleased to call a *Yahoo*.

I said further that if good fortune ever restored me to my native country, to relate my travels hither, as I resolved to do, everybody would believe that I said the thing that was not, that I invented the story out of my own head; and—with all possible respect to himself, his family, and friends, and under his promise of not being offended—our countrymen would hardly think it probable that a *Houyhnhnm* should be the presiding creature of a nation and a *Yahoo* the brute.

When I asserted that the *Yahoos* were the only governing animals in my country, my master desired to know whether we had *Houyhnhnms* among us and what was their employment. I told him we had great numbers; that in summer they grazed in the fields and in winter were kept in houses with hay and oats, where *Yahoo* servants were employed to rub their skins smooth, comb their manes, pick their feet, serve them with food, and make their beds.

"I understand you well," said my master; "it is now very plain, from all you have spoken, that whatever share of reason the *Yahoos* pretend to, the *Houyhnhnms* are your masters."

I begged his honor would please to excuse me from proceeding any further, because I was very certain that the account he expected from me would be highly displeasing. But he insisted in commanding me to let him know the best and the worst. I told him he should be obeyed.

"Among us," I said, "the *Houyhnhnms* are called 'horses.' They are the most generous and comely animals we have. They excel in strength and swiftness, and, when they belong to persons of quality, are employed in traveling, racing, or drawing chariots. They are treated with much kindness and care, till they fall into diseases or become foundered in the feet; but then they are sold and used to all kind of drudgery till they die, after which their skins are stripped and sold for what they are worth and their bodies left to be devoured by dogs and birds of prey. But the common race of horses have not so good fortune, being kept by farmers and carriers and other mean people, who put them to greater labor and feed them worse."

I described, as well as I could, our way of riding, the shape and use of a bridle, a saddle, a spur, and a whip, of harness and wheels. I added that we fastened plates of a certain hard substance, called iron, at the bottoms of their feet, to preserve their hoofs from being broken by the stony ways, on which we often traveled.

My master, after some expressions of great indignation, wondered how we dared to venture upon a *Houyhnhnm's* back, for he was sure that the weakest servant in his house would be able to shake off the strongest *Yahoo;* or, by lying down and rolling on his back, squeeze the brute to death. I answered that our horses were trained up, from three or four years old, to the several uses we intended them for; that if any of them proved vicious, they were employed for carriages; that they were severely beaten, while they were young, for any mischievous tricks.

I added, "It is true that they understand rewards and punishments; but they have not the least hint of reason, any more than the *Yahoos* in this country."

It was hard to give my master a right idea of what I spoke; for their language does not abound in variety of words, because their wants and passions are fewer than among us. But it is impossible to express his noble resentment at our savage treatment of the *Houyhnhnm* race.

"If it were possible," he said, "that there could be a country where *Yahoos* alone possessed reason, they certainly must be the governing animal; because reason in time will always prevail against brutal strength." But, considering the frames of our bodies, and especially of mine, he thought no creature of equal bulk was so ill contrived for employing that reason in the common offices of life. He desired to know whether those among whom I lived resembled me or the *Yahoos* of this country.

I assured him that I was as well shaped as most of my age; but the younger and the females, were much more soft and tender, and the skins of the latter generally as white as milk.

He went on: "You differ, indeed, from other *Yahoos*, being much more cleanly and not altogether so deformed; but, in point of real advantage, you differ for the worse. Your nails are of no use either to your fore or hinder feet; as to your forefeet, I cannot properly call them by that name, for you never walk upon them; they are too soft to bear the ground. You cannot walk with any safety, for if either of your hind feet slips, you must surely fall."

He then began to find fault with other parts of my body: the flatness of my face, the prominence of my nose, mine eyes placed directly in front, so that I could not look on either side, without turning my head. I was not able to feed myself without lifting one of my forefeet to my mouth. He knew not what could be the use of those several clefts and divisions in my feet behind; these were too soft to bear the hardness and sharpness of stones without a covering made from the skin of some other brute. However, he said that he would debate the matter no further, as he was eager to hear my own story.

"My birth," I said, "was of honest parents, in an island called England, governed at this time by a queen named Anne. I was bred a surgeon, whose trade it is to cure wounds and hurts in the body, gotten by accident or violence. I left my home to get riches, whereby to maintain myself and my family when I return. In my last voyage, I was commander of the ship and had about fifty *Yahoos* under me, many of whom died at sea, so that I was forced to supply them by others, picked out from several nations. Our ship was twice in danger of being sunk, the first time by a great storm and the second by striking against a rock."

Here my master interrupted by asking me how I could persuade strangers, out of different countries, to venture with me, after the losses I had sustained and the risks I had run. I said they were fellows of desperate fortunes, forced to fly from the places of their birth on account of their poverty or their crimes, and therefore they were under the necessity of seeking a livelihood in other places.

During this discourse my master was pleased to interrupt me several times. It was difficult to describe to him the nature of the crimes for which most of our crew had been forced to fly their country. This labor took up several days' conversation before he was able to comprehend me. He was wholly at a loss to know what could be the use or necessity of practicing those vices. I endeavored to give some ideas of the desire of power and riches and of the terrible effects of intemperance, malice, and envy.

His language had no words for power, law, war, punishment, and a thousand other things familiar to us. When I made him understand what they were, and when he arrived at some idea of what human nature is like, he lifted up his eyes in amazement and indignation, like one whose imagination is struck with something never seen or heard of before.

CHAPTER VIII

GULLIVER DESCRIBES ENGLAND TO THE HOUYHNHNM

IN a series of such conversations which covered two years, I laid before my master, as well as I could, the whole state of Europe and especially of England. I talked of trade and manufactures, of arts and sciences, of war and peace. I told him of the revolution under the Prince of Orange* and of the long war with France which followed, in which a million *Yahoos* were killed, a hundred cities taken, and five times as many ships burnt or sunk.

He asked what were the causes that made one country go to war with another.

"They are countless," I said. "Ambitious princes wish more land or people to govern and go to war to gain it. Difference in political or religious opinions has cost millions of lives. Sometimes one prince quarrels with another, for fear the

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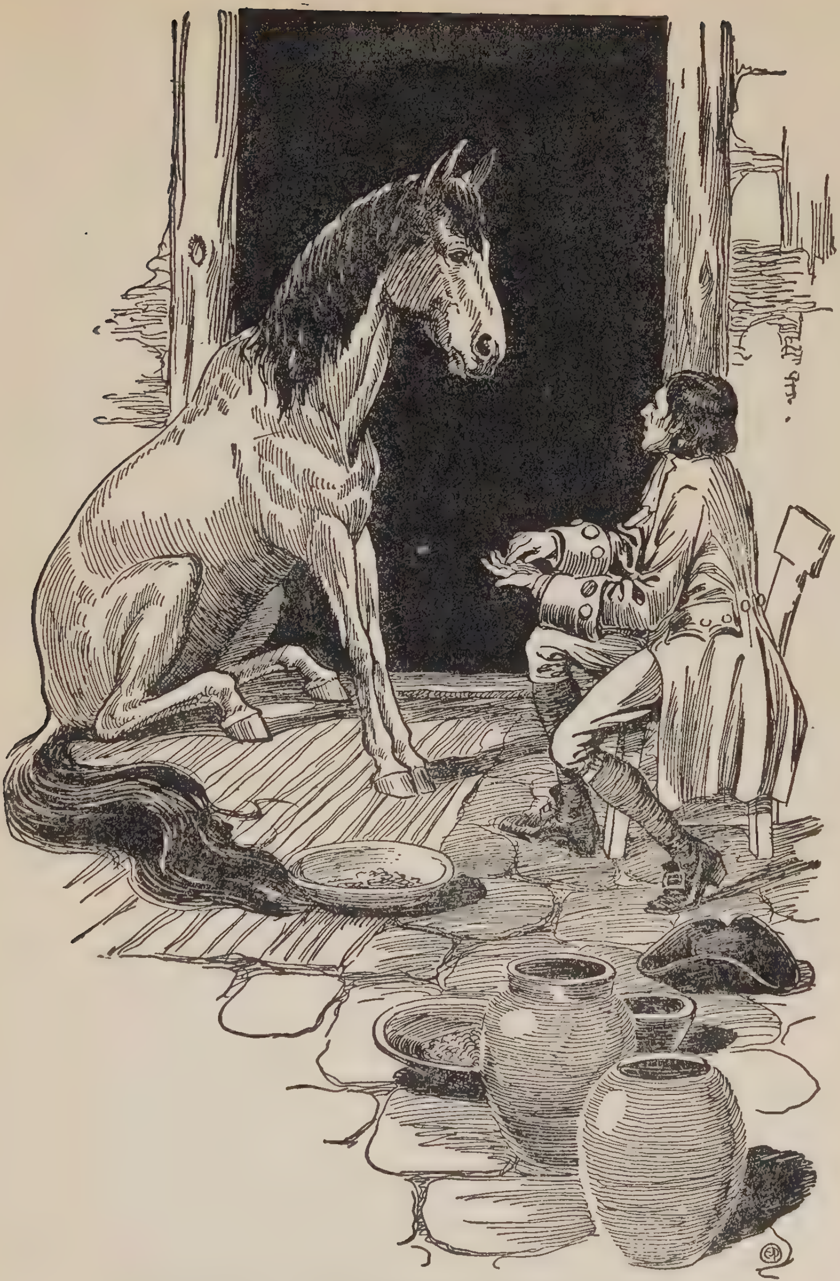
* The Revolution of 1688, when James II was put off the throne and his daughter Mary, with her husband, William of Orange (in Holland), succeeded.



I laid before my master the whole state of Europe other should quarrel with him. Sometimes a war is entered upon, because the enemy is too strong; and sometimes because he is too weak. Sometimes our neighbors want the things which we have, or have the things which we want, and we both fight, till they take ours or give us theirs.

"There are some princes in Europe, not able to make war by themselves, who hire out their troops to richer nations for so much a day to each soldier.* The prince keeps three-fourths of this wage."

"It is a good thing," said my master, "in your making of war, that the shame is greater than the danger and that nature has left you utterly incapable of doing much mischief. For, your mouths lying flat with your faces, you can hardly bite each other to any purpose, unless by consent. Then as to the claws upon your feet, before and behind, they are so short and tender that one of our *Yahoos* would drive a dozen of yours before him. And, therefore, in stating the numbers of those who had been killed in battle, I cannot but think you have said the thing which is not."

I could not help shaking my head and smiling a little at his ignorance. Being no stranger to the art of war, I gave him a description of cannons, muskets, pistols, bullets, powder, swords, bayonets, battles, sieges, retreats, attacks, bombardments, sea fights, ships sunk with a thousand men, twenty thousand killed on each side, dying groans, smoke, noise, confusion, trampling to death under horses' feet, flight, pursuit, victory; fields strewed with carcasses, left for food to dogs and wolves and birds of prey; plundering, burning, and destroying.

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* Such were the Hessian troops hired by the British to fight the American colonists in our Revolution.

At all this my master was so shocked that he asked me to change the subject and explain to him about the use of law. I had said that some of our crew had been ruined by the law. He did not see how it came to pass that the law, which was intended for every man's help and safety, should be any man's ruin.

I said that there was a society of men among us, bred up from their youth in the art of proving that white is black and black is white, according as they are paid. To this society all the rest of the people are slaves. "For example," I said, "if my neighbor has a mind to my cow, he hires a lawyer to prove that he ought to have my cow from me. I must then hire another to defend my right. The fees charged by these lawyers are large enough to ruin any man, if the case drags on long enough. It may last ten, twenty, or thirty years.

"They do not care about the merits of the case in hand. They do not wish to know what claim or title my neighbor has to my cow; but whether the said cow were red or black; her horns long or short; whether the field I graze her in be round or square;

whether she was milked at home or abroad; what diseases she is subject to, and the like."

At this point my master inquired what the word "hire" might mean. I was at much pains to describe to him the use of money, the materials it was made of, and the value of the metals. I explained that when a *Yahoo* had got a great store of this precious substance, he was able to purchase whatever he had a mind to; the finest clothing, the noblest houses, great tracts of land, the most costly meats and drinks. Therefore, since money alone was able to perform all these feats, our *Yahoos* thought they could never have enough of it to spend or to save, as they found themselves inclined. The rich man enjoyed the fruit of the poor man's labor and the latter were a thousand to one in proportion to the former. The bulk of our people were forced to live miserably, by laboring every day for small wages, to make a few live plentifully.

His honor was surprised, for he had supposed that all animals had a right to share equally the fruits of the earth. "What are these costly meats?" he asked, "and why do you want them?"

I named as many sorts as came into my head, with the various methods of dressing them, which could not be done without sending vessels by sea to every part of the world, as well for liquors to drink as for sauces and other conveniences. I assured him that this whole globe of earth must be at least three times gone round before one of our better female *Yahoos* could get her breakfast or a cup to put it in.* He said that must needs be a miserable country which cannot furnish food for its own inhabitants; but what he chiefly wondered at was how such vast tracts of ground as I described should be wholly without fresh water and the people put to the necessity of sending over the sea for drink.

I replied that England, the dear place of my birth, produced three times more food than its inhabitants are able to consume, as well as liquors extracted from grain, or pressed out of the fruits of certain trees, which made excellent drink. But, in order to feed the luxury and intemperance of the males and the vanity of the females, we sent away the greatest part of our necessary things to other countries, whence in return we brought the materials of diseases, folly, and vice, to spend among ourselves.

I told him that wine was not imported among us from foreign countries to supply the want of water or other drinks, but because it was a sort of liquid which made us merry by putting us out of our senses, diverted melancholy thoughts, raised our hopes and banished our fears, suspended every office of reason for a time, and deprived us of the use of our limbs, till we fell into a profound sleep; although it must be confessed that we always awaked sick and low-spirited, and that the use of this liquor filled us with diseases which made our lives uncomfortable and short.

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* Both tea and porcelain teacups in Swift's time were imported from China.

"But besides all this," I concluded, "the bulk of our people support themselves by furnishing the necessities or conveniences of life to the rich and to each other. For instance, when I am at home and dressed as I ought to be, I carry on my body the workmanship of a hundred tradesmen; the building and furniture of my house employ as many more and five times the number to adorn my wife."

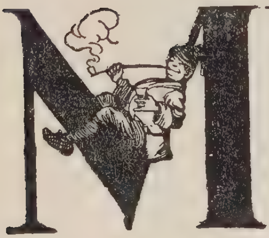
I was going on to tell him of another sort of people, who get their livelihood by attending the sick. But here it was with the utmost difficulty that I brought him to understand what I meant. He could easily conceive that a *Houyhnhnm* grew weak and heavy a few days before his death, or by some accident might hurt a limb; but that nature, who works all things to perfection, should suffer any pains to breed in our bodies he thought impossible, and desired to know the reason of so unaccountable an evil.

I told him that we fed on a thousand things which operated contrary to each other; that we ate when we were not hungry and drank without thirst; that we sat whole nights drinking strong liquors, without eating a bit, which disposed us to sloth, inflamed our bodies, and prevented digestion. A catalogue of human diseases would run to five or six hundred, in every part of the body. To remedy this, people were trained in the profession of curing the sick.

As I thus went on with my account of human nature, their vices appeared in such contrast to the virtues of the excellent quadrupeds with whom I lived that I began to think the honor of my own kind not worth caring for. I had not yet been a year in this country before I felt such love and veneration for the inhabitants that I entered on a firm resolution never to return to human kind, but to pass the rest of my life among these admirable *Houyhnhnms*, in the practice of every virtue, where I could have no example to vice. But it was decreed by fortune, my enemy, that so great a happiness should not fall to my share.

CHAPTER IX

GULLIVER'S OBSERVATIONS ON HOUYHNHNMS AND YAHOOS

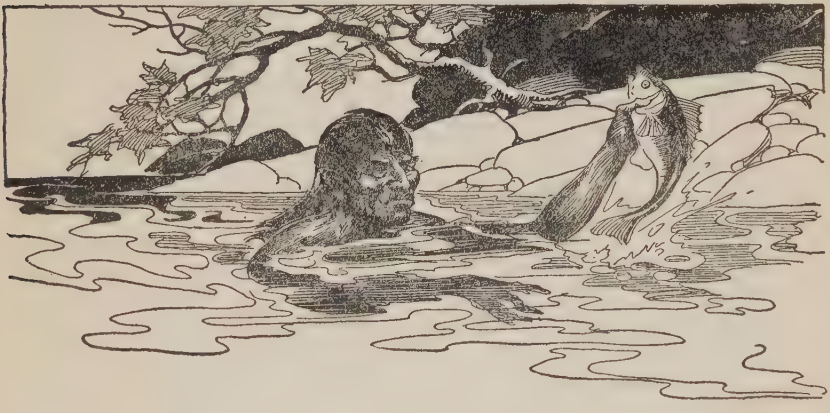


MY master was not slow to see the likeness between the vices of the *Yahoos* in his country and the facts that I told him of my countrymen. Just as we engaged in war, so they were the most quarrelsome of animals. They sought for and treasured certain shining stones found in the fields, just as Europeans hoarded wealth. They were the only animals in the country ever afflicted with any diseases. By all this he was more than ever convinced that I was a better sort of *Yahoo.*

I frequently made observations for myself, by going among the herds of *Yahoos* in the neighborhood. His honor ordered one of his servants, a strong sorrel nag, very honest and good natured, to be my guard, without whose protection I durst not undertake such adventures.

By what I could discover, the *Yahoos* appear to be the most unteachable of all animals, their ability never reaching higher than to draw or carry burdens. Yet I am of opinion this defect arises chiefly from a perverse disposition; for they are cunning, malicious, treacherous, and revengeful. They are strong and hardy, but of a cowardly spirit. The red-haired of both sexes are more mischievous than the rest, whom yet they much excel in strength and activity.

The *Houyhnhnms* keep the *Yahoos* for present use in huts not far from the house; but the rest are sent abroad to certain fields, where they dig up roots, eat several kinds of herbs, or sometimes catch weasels and wild rats, which they greedily devour. Nature has taught them to dig deep holes with their nails on the side of a rising ground, wherein they lie by themselves; only the kennels of the females are larger, sufficient to hold two or three cubs.



They swim from their infancy like frogs and are able to continue long under water, where they often take fish, which the females carry home to their young.

Having lived three years in this country, I should, like other travelers, give some account of the manners and customs of its inhabitants, which it was indeed my principal study to learn.

Friendship and benevolence are two principal virtues among the *Houyhnhnms.* A stranger from the remotest part is equally treated with the nearest neighbor; and wherever he goes, looks upon himself as at home. They preserve decency and civility in the highest degree, but are altogether ignorant of ceremony. They have no fondness for their colts or foals, but take great care in educating them. My master showed the same affection to his neighbor's children that he had for his own. They will have it that nature teaches them to love the whole species.

In educating the youth of both sexes, their method is admirable and highly deserves our imitation. These are not suffered to taste a grain of oats, except upon certain days, till eighteen years old; nor milk, but very rarely. In summer they graze two hours in the morning and as many in the evening, which their parents likewise observe; but the servants are not allowed above half that time and a great part of their grass is brought home, which they eat at the most convenient hours, when they can be best spared from work.

Temperance, industry, exercise, and cleanliness are the lessons taught equally to the young ones of both sexes.

My master thought it quite wrong to give the females a different education from the males.

The *Houyhnhnms* train up their youths to strength, speed, and hardiness, by exercising them in running races up and down steep hills and over hard stony grounds; and when they are all in a sweat, they are ordered to leap over head and ears into a pond or river. Four times a year the youth of a certain district meet to show their skill in running and leaping and other feats of strength and agility. The victor is rewarded with a song in his or her praise.

Every fourth year, in spring, there is a representative council of the whole nation, which meets in a plain about twenty miles from our house and continues about five or six days. Here they inquire into the state and condition of the several districts; whether they abound or be lacking in hay or oats or cows or *Yahoos;* and wherever there is any want (which is but seldom), it is immediately supplied.

The *Houyhnhnms* have no letters and consequently their knowledge is all handed down orally. But there happen few events of any moment among a people so well united, so virtuous, and so cut off from all commerce with other nations; therefore the historical part is easily preserved without burdening their memories. I have already observed that they are subject to no diseases and therefore can have no need of physicians. However, they have excellent medicines, composed of herbs, to cure accidental bruises and cuts.

They calculate the year by the revolution of the sun and the moon, but use no subdivisions into weeks. They are well enough acquainted with the motions of those two heavenly bodies and understand the nature of eclipses; and this is the utmost progress of their astronomy.

In poetry, they must be allowed to excel all other mortals. Their verses usually contain either some exalted notions of friendship and benevolence or the praises of those who were victors in races and other bodily exercises. Their buildings, although very rude and simple, are not inconvenient, but well contrived to defend them from all injuries of cold and heat. They have a kind of tree, which at forty years old loosens in the root, and falls with the first storm; it grows very straight, and being pointed like stakes with a sharp stone (for the *Houyhnhnms* know not the use of iron), they stick them erect in the ground, about ten inches apart and then weave in oat-straw or sometimes wattles between them. The roof is made after the same manner and so are the doors.

The *Houyhnhnms* use the hollow part between the pastern and the hoof of the forefoot as we do our hands, and this with greater dexterity than I could at first imagine. I have seen a white mare of our family thread a needle (which I lent her on purpose) with that joint. They milk their cows, reap their oats, and do all the work which requires hands, in the same manner. They have a kind of hard flints, which by grinding against other stones, they form into instruments that serve instead of wedges, axes, and hammers. With tools made of these flints, they likewise cut their hay and reap their oats, which there grow naturally in several fields. The *Yahoos* draw home the sheaves in carriages and the servants tread them in certain covered huts to get out the grain, which is kept in stores. They make a rude kind of earthen and wooden vessels and bake the former in the sun.

If they can avoid accidents, they die only of old age and are buried in the obscurest places that can be found, their friends and relations expressing neither joy nor grief at their departure; nor does the dying person discover the least regret that he is leaving the world, any more than if he were upon returning home from a visit to one of his neighbors. I remember my master having once made an appointment with a friend and his family to come to his house upon some affair of importance. On the day fixed, the mistress and her two children came very late. Her excuse for not coming sooner was that her husband dying late in the morning, she was a good while consulting her servants about a convenient place where his body should be laid; and I observed she behaved herself at our house as cheerfully as the rest. She died about three months after.

They live generally to seventy or seventy-five years, very seldom to fourscore. Some weeks before their death they feel a gradual decay, but without pain. During this time they are much visited by their friends, because they cannot go abroad with their usual ease and satisfaction. However, about ten days before their death, they return the visits that have been made them by those who are nearest in the neighborhood, being carried in a convenient sledge drawn by *Yahoos*. This vehicle they use not only upon this occasion, but when they grow old, upon long journeys, or when they are lamed by any accident. When the dying *Houyhnhnms* return those visits, they take a solemn leave of their friends, as if they were going to some remote part of the country to pass the rest of their lives.

I could, with great pleasure, enlarge further upon the manners and virtues of this excellent people. However, I must leave that subject and proceed to relate my own sad catastrophe.

CHAPTER X

GULLIVER IS BANISHED TO HIS OWN LAND

JUST at this time I had settled my little economy to my own heart's content. My master had ordered a room to be made for me, after their manner, about six yards from the house, the sides and floors of which I plastered with clay and covered with rushmats of my own contrivings. I had beaten hemp, which there grows wild, and made of it a sort of ticking; this I filled with the feathers of several birds I had taken. I had worked two chairs with my knife, the sorrel nag helping me. When my clothes were worn to rags, I made myself others with the skins of rabbits.

Of these I also made very tolerable stockings. I soled my shoes with wood, which I cut from a tree and fitted to the upper leather; and when this was worn out, I supplied it with skins dried in the sun. I often got honey out of hollow trees, which I mingled with water or ate with my bread. No man could more verify the truth of these two maxims, that "Nature is very easily satisfied," and that "Necessity is the mother of invention." I enjoyed perfect health of body and peace of mind; I did not feel the treachery or inconstancy of a friend nor the injuries of a secret or open enemy.

I had the favor of being admitted to several *Houyhnhnms* who came to visit or dine with my master; where his honor graciously suffered me to wait in the room and listen to their discourse. Both he and his company would often descend to ask me questions and receive my answers. I had also sometimes the honor of attending my master in his visits to others. I never presumed to speak, except in answer to a question. In such conversations no person spoke without being pleased himself and pleasing his companions; there was no interruption, tediousness, or difference of sentiments.

By this time I so admired and loved these people that when I thought of my family, my friends, my countrymen, or the human race in general, I considered them, as they really were, *Yahoos*, in shape and disposition, perhaps a little more civilized and having the gift of speech; but making no other use of reason than to improve and multiply their vices. When I happened to behold the reflection of my own form in a lake or a fountain, I turned away my face in horror and hatred of myself.

By conversing with the *Houyhnhnms* and looking upon them with delight, I fell to imitate their gait and gestures, which is now grown into a habit; and my friends often tell me, in a blunt way, that I trot like a horse. I take this for a great compliment. In speaking I am apt to fall into the voice and manner of the *Houyhnhnms* and hear myself ridiculed on that account, without the least mortification.

In the midst of all this happiness, and when I looked upon myself to be fully settled for life, my master sent for me one morning a little earlier than his usual hour. I observed by his countenance that he was in some perplexity and at a loss how to begin what he had to speak. After a short silence he told me that he did not know how I would take what he was going to say. In the last general assembly, the representatives had taken offense at his keeping a *Yahoo* (meaning myself) in his family, more like a *Houyhnhnm* than a brute animal. He was known frequently to converse with me, as if he could receive some advantage or pleasure in my company; that such a practice was not agreeable to reason or nature or a thing ever heard of before among them.

The assembly had instructed him either to employ me like the rest of my species or command me to swim back to the place whence I came. The first of these ideas was utterly rejected by all the *Houyhnhnms* who had ever seen me at his house or their own; for because I had some reasoning power, it was feared I might become the leader of a rebellion among the *Yahoos*.

My master added that he was daily pressed by the *Houyhnhnms* of the neighborhood to have the assembly's decree executed, which he could not put off much longer. He doubted it would be impossible for me to swim to another country, and therefore wished that I would contrive some sort of vehicle, resembling those I had described to him, that might carry me on the sea; in which work I should have the assistance of his own servants, as well as those of his neighbors. He concluded that, for his own part, he could have been content to keep me in his service as long as I lived.

I was struck with the utmost grief and despair at my master's discourse; and being unable to support the agonies I was under, I fell fainting at his feet. When I came to myself, he told me that he concluded I had been dead; for these people are subject to no such weaknesses. I answered in a faint voice that death would have been too great a happiness; that although I could not blame the assembly, yet I felt the sentence to be very severe.

I could not swim a league and probably the nearest land to theirs might be distant above a hundred. Many materials necessary for making a small vessel to carry me off were wholly wanting in this country. However, I would attempt it in obedience and gratitude to his honor, although I concluded the thing to be impossible and therefore looked on myself as already devoted to destruction. The certain prospect of an unnatural death was the least of my evils; for, supposing I should escape with life by some strange adventure, how could I think of passing my days among *Yahoos?*

However, with my humble thanks for the offer of his servants' assistance in making a vessel, and desiring a reasonable time for so difficult a work, I told him that I would endeavor to do his bidding.

My master, in a few words, made a very gracious reply; allowed me the space of two months to finish my boat; and ordered the sorrel nag, my fellow servant, to follow my instructions, because I told my master that his help would be sufficient and I knew he had a tenderness for me.

In his company, my first business was to go to that part of the coast where my rebellious crew had ordered me to be set on shore. I got upon a height, and looking on every side into the sea, fancied I saw a small island toward the northeast. I took out my pocket glass and could then clearly distinguish it about five leagues off. It appeared to the sorrel nag to be only a blue cloud; for, as he had no idea of any country besides his own, so he could not be expert in distinguishing remote objects at sea.

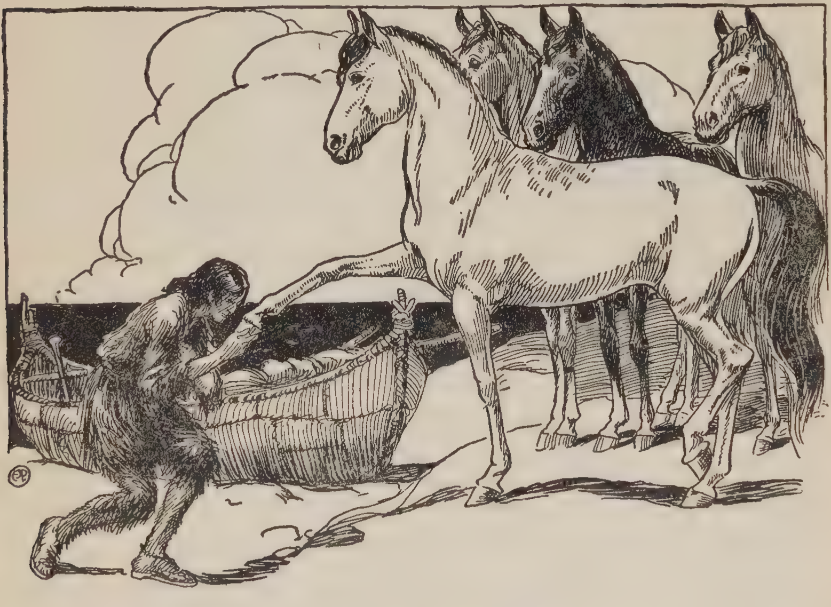
After I had discovered this island I considered no further, but resolved it should, if possible, be the first place of my banishment, leaving the consequence to fortune.

I returned home, and consulting with the sorrel nag, we went into a copse at some distance, where I with my knife and he with a sharp flint, fastened after their manner to a wooden handle, cut down several oak wattles, about the thickness of a walking staff and some larger pieces. In six weeks' time, with the help of the sorrel nag, who performed the parts that required most labor, I finished a sort of Indian canoe, but much larger, covering it with skins, well stitched together with hempen threads of my own making. My sail was likewise composed of skins. I likewise provided myself with four paddles. I laid in a stock of boiled flesh of rabbits and fowls and took with me two vessels, one filled with milk and the other with water.

I tried my canoe in a large pond near my master's house and then corrected in it what was amiss; stopping all the chinks with tallow, I found it able to bear me and my freight; and, when it was as complete as I could possibly make it, I had it drawn on a carriage very gently by *Yahoos* to the seaside, under the conduct of the sorrel nag and another servant.

When all was ready, and the day came for my departure, I took leave of my master and lady and the whole family, my eyes flowing with tears and my heart quite sunk with grief. But his honor was determined to see me in my canoe; and got several of his neighboring friends to accompany him. I was forced to wait above an hour for the tide and then observing the wind very fortunately bearing toward the island to which I intended to steer my course, I took a second leave of my master. As I was going to prostrate myself to kiss his hoof, he did me the honor to raise it gently to my mouth.

I paid my respects to the rest of the *Houyhnhnms* in his honor's company; then, getting into my canoe, I pushed off from the shore to begin my desperate voyage. It was the middle of February, 1715. I made use at first only of my paddles; but, as the wind was favorable, I set up my little sail; and thus, with the help of the tide, I went at the rate of a league and a half an hour, as near as I could guess. My master and his friends continued on the shore till I was almost out of sight; and I often heard the sorrel nag (who always loved me) crying out, "Take care of thyself, gentle *Yahoo*."



I felt such horror at the idea of returning to live in the society and under the government of *Yahoos*, that I planned to find some small island, uninhabited, yet sufficient to supply me with the necessaries of life. In such a lonely place I could at least enjoy my own thoughts and remember with delight the virtues of the *Houyhnhnms*.

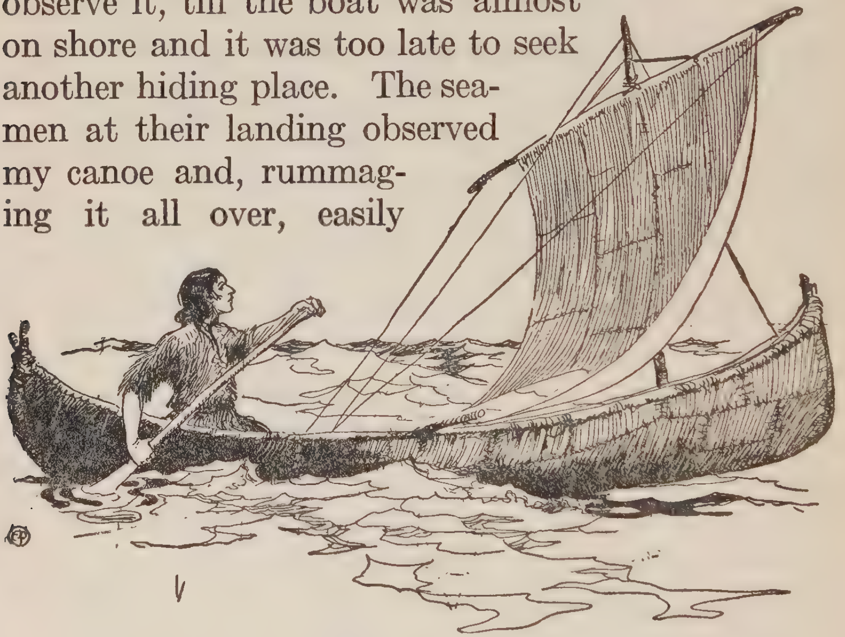
I did not know in what part of the world I was, but I had thought that when my crew put me ashore that we were somewhere south of the Cape of Good Hope. So I resolved to steer eastward, hoping to reach such an island as I wished in the vicinity of New Holland. At six in the evening, when I had gone about eighteen leagues, I spied a very small island about half a league off, which I soon reached. It was nothing but a rock, with one creek naturally arched by the force of tempests. Here I put in my canoe and climbing a part of the rock, I could plainly discover land to the east, extending from south to north. I lay all night in my canoe; and repeating my voyage early in the morning, I arrived in seven hours at the southeast point of New Holland.

I saw no inhabitants in the place where I landed and, being unarmed, I was afraid of venturing far into the country. I found some shellfish on the shore and ate them raw, not daring to kindle a fire for fear of being discovered by the natives. I continued three days feeding on oysters and limpets, to save my own provision; and I fortunately found a brook of excellent water, which gave me great relief.

On the fourth day, venturing out early a little too far, I saw twenty or thirty natives upon a height not above five hundred yards from me. They consisted of men, women, and children, sitting round a fire, as I could discover by the smoke. One of them spied me and gave notice to the rest; five of them advanced toward me, leaving the women and children at the fire. I made what haste I could to the shore, and getting into my canoe, pushed off. The savages, observing me retreat, ran after me; and before I could get far enough into the sea, discharged an arrow, which wounded me deeply on the inside of my left knee. I shall carry the mark to my grave. I feared that the arrow might be poisoned, and, paddling out of the reach of their darts, I made a shift to suck the wound and dress it as well as I could.

I was at a loss what to do, for I durst not return to the same landing place, but stood to the north and was forced to paddle; for the wind, though very gentle, was against me. As I was looking about for a secure landing place, I saw a sail, which appeared every minute more visible. I was in some doubt whether I should wait for them or not; but at last my hatred of the *Yahoo* race prevailed. Turning my canoe, I sailed and paddled toward the south and got into the same creek whence I set out in the morning, choosing rather to trust myself among these barbarians than live with European *Yahoos*. I drew up my canoe as close as I could to the shore and hid myself behind a stone by the little brook.

The ship came within half a league of this creek and sent her longboat to take in fresh water (for the place it seems was very well known). I did not observe it, till the boat was almost on shore and it was too late to seek another hiding place. The seamen at their landing observed my canoe and, rummaging it all over, easily guessed that the owner could not be far off. Four of them, well armed, searched every cranny and lurking hole, till at last they found me flat on my face behind the stone.



They gazed awhile in wonder at my strange uncouth dress; my coat made of skins, my wooden-soled shoes, and my furred stockings. One of the seamen, in Portuguese, asked me who I was. I understood that language very well, and getting upon my feet, said that I was a poor *Yahoo*, banished from the *Houyhnhnms*, and desired they would let me depart.

They wondered to hear me answer them in their own tongue and saw by my complexion I must be a European; but they were at a loss to know what I meant by *Yahoos* and *Houyhnhnms*. At the same time they fell a laughing at my strange tone in speaking, which resembled the neighing of a horse. I trembled all the while betwixt fear and hatred. I again desired leave to depart and was gently moving to my canoe: but they laid hold of me, desiring to know what country I was of and whence I came.

I told them: "I was born in England, whence I came about five years ago, and then your country and ours were at peace. I therefore hope you will not treat me as an enemy, since I mean no harm. I am a poor *Yahoo*, seeking some desolate place in which to pass the rest of my unfortunate life."

When they began to talk, I thought I never heard or saw anything so unnatural; for it appeared to me as monstrous as if a dog or a cow should speak in England or a *Yahoo* in *Houyhnhnmland*. The honest Portuguese were equally amazed at my strange dress and the odd manner of delivering my words, which, however, they understood very well. They spoke to me with great kindness and said that they were sure the captain would carry me free to Lisbon, whence I might return to my own country. Two of the seamen would go back to the ship, inform the captain of what they had seen, and receive his orders; in the meantime, unless I would give my solemn oath not to fly, they would secure me by force. I thought it best to comply with their proposal.

They were very curious to know my story, but I gave them very little satisfaction and they all thought that my misfortunes had impaired my reason. In two hours the boat, which went laden with vessels of water, returned, with the captain's command to fetch me on board. I fell on my knees to preserve my liberty, but all was in vain; and the men, having tied me with cords, heaved me into the boat. whence I was taken into the captain's cabin.

His name was Pedro de Mendez; he was a very courteous and generous person. He entreated me to give some account of myself and desired to know what I would eat or drink. He spoke so many obliging things that I wondered to find such civilities from a *Yahoo*. However, I remained silent and sullen. At last I desired something to eat out of my own canoe; but he ordered me a chicken and some excellent wine, and then directed that I should be put to bed in a very clean cabin.

After dinner Don Pedro came to me and assured me that he only meant to do me all the service he was able. He spoke so kindly that I became more friendly and gave him a short relation of my voyage, of the plot against me by my own men, of the country where they set me on shore, and of my five years' residence there—all of which he looked upon as if it were a dream or a vision. At this I took great offense, for I had quite forgot the habit of lying, so peculiar to *Yahoos* in all countries where they reside. I asked him whether it were the custom to say the thing which was not. I assured him I had almost forgot what he meant by falsehood, and if I had lived a thousand years in *Houyhnhnmland,* I should never have heard a lie from the meanest servant.

The captain, a wise man, after many endeavors to catch me tripping in some part of my story, at last began to have a better opinion of my truthfulness. But he added that since I professed so great a love of truth, I must give him my word and honor to bear him company in this voyage, without attempting anything against my life or else he would keep me a prisoner till we arrived at Lisbon. I gave him the promise he required; but at the same time protested that I would suffer the greatest hardships rather than return to live among *Yahoos.*

Our voyage passed without any considerable accident. We arrived at Lisbon in November. At our landing the captain forced me to cover myself with his cloak, to prevent the rabble from crowding about me. I was taken to his own house; and at my earnest request he led me up to the highest room backward. I urged him to conceal from all persons what I had told him, because the least hint of such a story would not only draw numbers of people to see me, but probably put me in danger of being imprisoned.

The captain persuaded me to accept a suit of clothes newly made; but I would not suffer the tailor to take my measure; however, Don Pedro being almost of my size, they fitted me well enough. He accoutred me with other necessaries, all new.

The captain had no wife, nor above three servants, none of whom were allowed to attend at meals; and his whole deportment was so obliging, added to very good human understanding, that I really began to tolerate his company. He gained so far upon me that I ventured to look out of the back window. By degrees I was brought into another room, whence I peeped into the street, but drew my head back in a fright. In a week's time he persuaded me down to the door. I found my terror lessened, but my hatred and contempt seemed to increase. I was at last bold enough to walk the streets in his company.

In ten days Don Pedro, to whom I had given some account of my domestic affairs, put it upon me, as a matter of honor and conscience, that I ought to return to my native country and live at home with my wife and children. He told me that there was an English ship in port just ready to sail and he would furnish me with all things necessary.

At last I yielded, finding I could do no better. When I left Lisbon, Don Pedro accompanied me to the ship and took kind leave of me. In a few days we cast anchor in the Downs, about nine in the morning, and at three in the afternoon I got safe to my house at Redriff.

My wife and family received me with great surprise and joy, because they concluded me certainly dead; but I must freely confess the sight of them filled me only with hatred, disgust, and contempt. For although, since my unfortunate exile from the *Houyhnhnm* country, I had compelled myself to tolerate the sight of *Yahoos* and to converse with Don Pedro de Mendez, yet my memory and imagination were always filled with the virtues and ideas of those exalted *Houyhnhnms*.

At the time I am writing, it is five years since my last return to England; during the first year, I could not endure my wife and children in my presence; much less could I suffer them to eat in the same room. To this hour they dare not presume to touch my bread or drink out of the same cup, neither was I ever able to let one of them take me by the hand. The first money I laid out was to buy two young horses, which I keep in a good stable. They understand me tolerably well; I converse with them at least four hours every day. They are strangers to bridle and saddle; they live in great friendship with me and each other. I began last week to permit my wife to sit at dinner with me, at the farthest end of a long table and to answer (but with the utmost brevity) the few questions I asked her. And although it be hard for a man late in life to remove old habits, I am not altogether out of hopes, in some time, to endure a neighbor *Yahoo* in my company, without the fears I am yet under of his teeth or his claws.

And thus, gentle reader, I have given thee a faithful history of my travels for sixteen years and above seven months; wherein I have not been so studious of ornament as of truth.

It is easy for us who travel into remote countries, which are seldom visited by Englishmen or other Europeans, to form descriptions of wonderful animals both at sea and land. Whereas a traveler's chief aim should be to make men wiser and better and to improve their minds by the bad, as well as good, example of what they deliver concerning foreign places.

I here take a final leave of all my courteous readers and return to enjoy my own thoughts in my little garden at Redriff; to apply those excellent lessons of virtue, which I learned among the *Houyhnhnms;* to instruct the *Yahoos* of my own family, as far as I shall find them teachable animals; to behold my figure often in a glass and thus, if possible, accustom myself by time to tolerate the sight of a human creature; to lament the brutality of *Houyhnhnms* in my own country, but to treat their persons with respect, for the sake of my noble master, his family, his friends, and the whole *Houyhnhnm* race, whom these of ours have the honor to resemble.

Hogs.I.
SUMATRA
P. Mintaon
I. Good Fortune
I. Nassow
SUNDA
Sillabar
Straits of Sunda
Blefuscu
Lilliput
Mildendo
Discovere
Anno Domin
1609
Damens
Land

BROBDINGNAG
Flanflasnic
Lorbrulgrud.
NORTH AMERICA
Straits of Annian
C. Blanco
St. Sebastian
C. Mendocino
Pto Sr. Francis Drake
NEW ALBION
Mount St. Martin.
P. Monterey.
Discovered Anno Domini 1703.

Hudson's

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